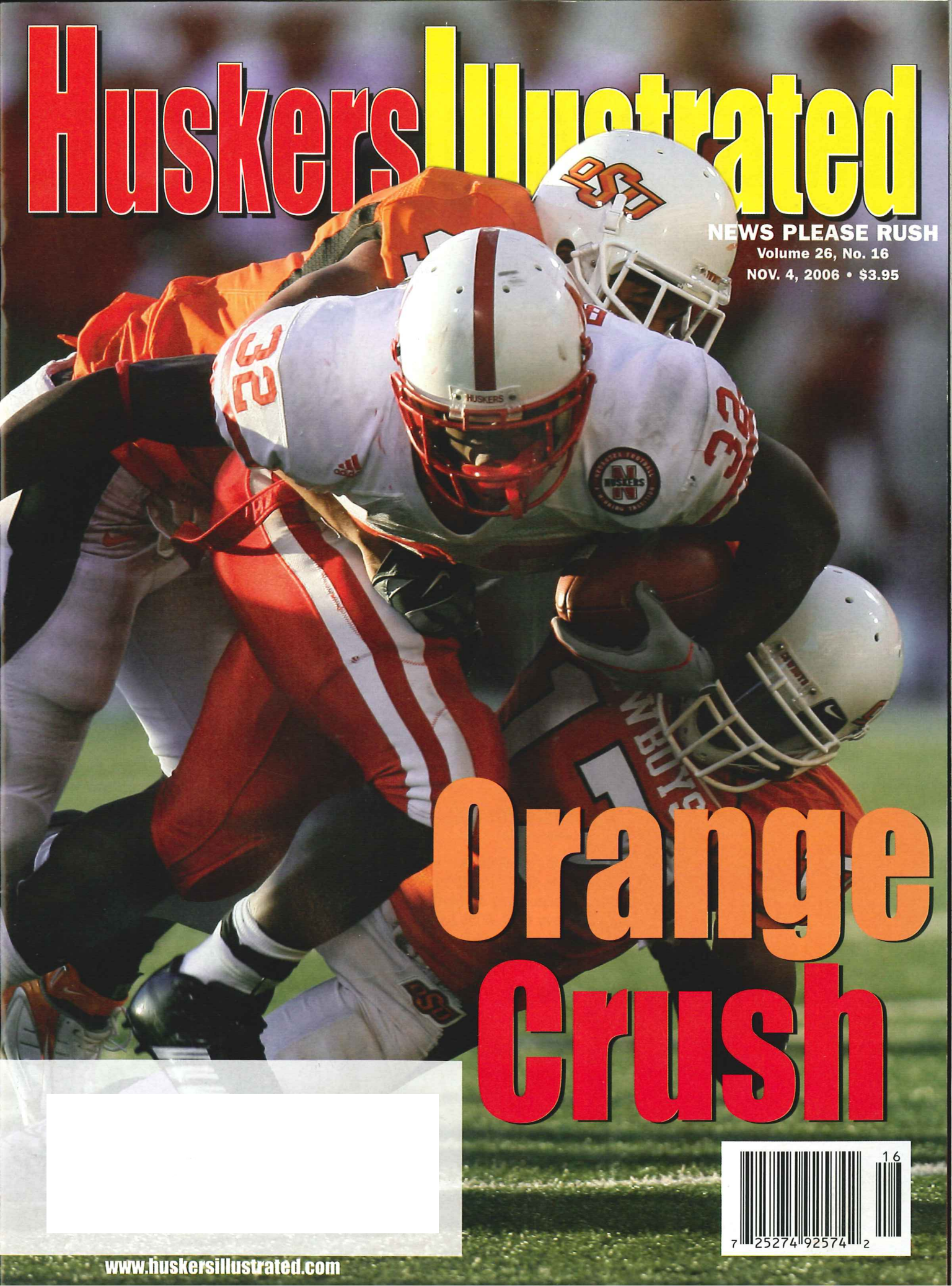


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A Stinker In Stillwater

*Things unravel in a hurry
after impressive start*



**Brian
HILL**

IT CERTAINLY HAD all the makings of a big trap, facing a talented team on the road in a game that fell between a heart-breaking loss and a much-anticipated showdown with a division rival.

But as Nebraska powered its way to a 16-0 lead behind Brandon Jackson, it looked like the Huskers might not be suffering from the hangover that many had expected.

Maybe it was a false sense of security fueled by Oklahoma State's two turnovers in its first three possessions. Maybe the fumbled snap on the extra point following Jackson's second touchdown was an omen of things to come.

Although the Cowboys already had shown they weren't going to go down without a fight with back-to-back touchdowns, the defining moment came in the final minute of the first half, after the Huskers had answered OSU's second score to go back on top 23-13 with 56 seconds left in the half.

A 39-yard kickoff return by Perrish Cox set up Bobby Reid's 45-yard touchdown pass to Adarius Bowman on the next play. NU went to halftime with a lead, but only 23-20.

After an amazing offensive quarter which included 353 yards and 33 points, the game was scoreless in the third quarter, but Jordan Congdon did miss a 42-yard field goal on NU's drive to open the

second half that would have extended the lead.

Instead, the Cowboys took the lead after just two plays of the fourth quarter — Reid's 55-yard pass to D'Juan Woods on third-and-8 and Dantrell Savage's 20-yard touchdown run with 14:34 remaining.

That seemed to squeeze the life out of the Huskers, who entered the game with a chance to take over sole possession of the top spot in the Big 12 Conference North Division, after Missouri lost at home to Oklahoma, 26-10, earlier in the day.

While the Huskers may have been left wondering what hit them, the Tigers certainly knew, as the Sooners scored all their points after Mizzou mistakes — two interceptions, a fumble, a blocked punt and a roughing-the-kicker penalty.

That's not quite the way the two teams wanted to go into this week's meeting in Lincoln (11 a.m., CST, ABC), but somebody still has to win the North Division and the right to most likely

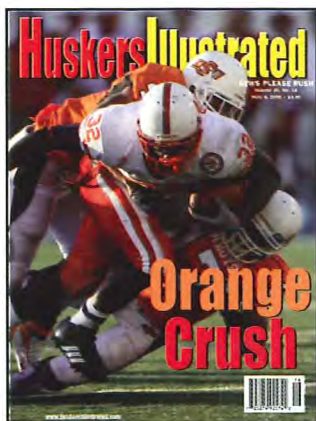
face Texas in the Dec. 2 Big 12 Championship game in Kansas City.

The Longhorns also may have been suffering from a slight hangover, as they fell behind Texas Tech 21-0, before rallying to win 35-31.

You can read more about the Big 12 North race and what the Huskers say about the loss and the rest of the season in this issue of *Huskers Illustrated*.

In this week's installment of "Recruiting Through the Years," former NU quarterback and assistant coach Turner Gill talks about the deciding factor in his becoming a Husker. Current backup quarterback Joe Ganz is featured in "Spotlight," and backup safety Bryan Wilson answers "10 Questions."

After the big step backward in Stillwater, there are many more questions to be answered about the 2006 Huskers. ■



ON THE COVER

Nebraska I-back Brandon Jackson (32) is dragged down by Oklahoma State's Patrick Lavine (4, top) and Jacob Lacey (17, bottom). Jackson carried 21 times for a career-high 182 yards, including 99 in the first quarter as NU built an early lead, before OSU came back in a big way for a 41-29 victory. Cover photo by Scott Bruhn.

Huskers Illustrated

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Huskers Illustrated

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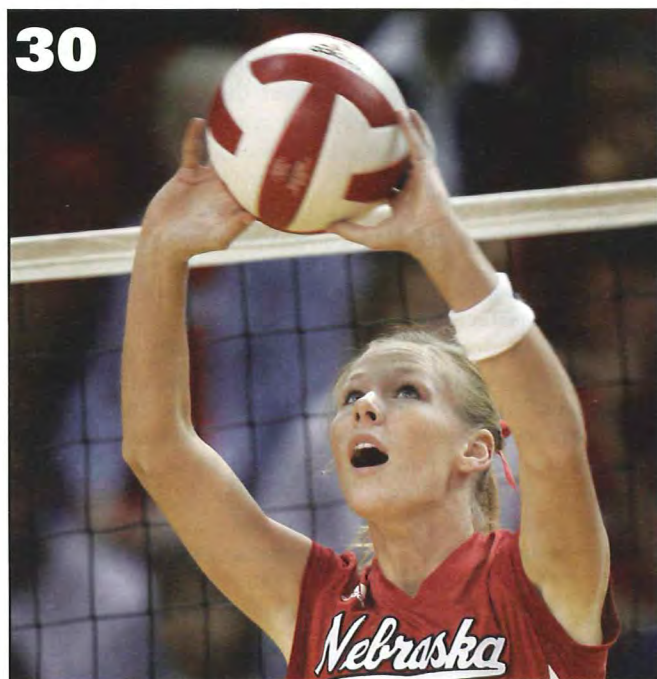
Quarterback Turner Gill (above) says coach Tom Osborne was the main reason he picked Nebraska over Oklahoma when both schools were aggressively recruiting him in 1980. *By Mike Babcock*

NEXT ISSUE

The Missouri review/Texas A&M preview edition will be mailed Nov. 6. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.

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'Biggest Strength'

Chemistry, character, whatever the description coach Doc Sadler believes his first Nebraska basketball team has it, enough so to be considered a strength, in fact, "probably the biggest strength," Sadler said at the Big 12 media days in Oklahoma City in late October.

"It is a team that seems to get along. It is not a team that seems to be jealous of anybody, and I think you can do some good things when you have that kind of character on it."

Character and an ability to shoot, Sadler said. "I hope it can shoot the basketball."

Sadler was asked about the problems of building a team with players recruited, basically, by his predecessor, Barry Collier, for a dramatically different style of play. "That can be an excuse or that can be a reality," said Sadler. "And we are just going to look at it as a reality."

The reality is, Charles Richardson and Marcus Perry, the team's only seniors, ARE his players, he said. "The day I took the job, they became my players." And because this is their final season, "I owe Charles and Marcus every ounce of energy to try to do something now."

Sadler has embraced Cornhusker football and doesn't see successful football and basketball programs as mutually exclusive. Nebraska fans want good basketball, and "I think with the recent success of Florida or Texas or Oklahoma, so-called football places, with the success that those schools have enjoyed, I think they realize now we can have both," he said. "And that's what we are going to shoot for."

● If conference coaches are correct, the Cornhuskers will go through growing pains. Nebraska was 10th in the coaches' preseason poll, with Kansas a unanimous choice to finish first.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Kansas | 7. Baylor |
| 2. Texas A&M | 8. Missouri |
| 3. Oklahoma State | 9. Oklahoma |
| 4. Texas | 10. Nebraska |
| 5. Kansas State | 11. Iowa State |
| 6. Texas Tech | 12. Colorado |

Richardson doesn't necessarily agree with the polls. "I think we can get a lot more done than people are expecting us to," he said. "We're taking that as motivation right now."

● Numbers were a problem early on, with Perry, Jamel White, Kyle Marks, Paul Velandier and Mike Smith all sidelined with injuries. Plus, Chris Balham collapsed during a practice, losing feeling in his legs, and had to be taken to a hospital by ambulance. Though he was released, tests continued.

At that point, Sadler had only seven healthy scholarship players. But he made no excuses.

"You just deal with it," he said in Oklahoma City. ■



Doc Sadler



Charles Richardson



Connie Yori



Jelena Spiric

'Reasonably Healthy'

Husker women's basketball coach Connie Yori addressed the injury issue as well at the conference media days, but from a more positive aspect. "The years that I have coached where I have had my best teams are years where we have stayed reasonably healthy," she said. "And in the years that we have met our expectations or exceeded those, we have stayed reasonably healthy."

Her fifth Nebraska team was reasonably healthy at that point, though junior forward Danielle Page underwent knee surgery in May and is expected to miss the nonconference season.

But senior Jelena Spiric, the Big 12 Newcomer of the Year in 2005 after transferring from junior college, is back, after missing last season because of a knee injury suffered in October. And "I feel like we finally have . . . we are at a point in our program where we can compete at a very high level against some of the better programs in the league, and we are past the building process," said Yori. "We really feel like we are into the growth process, the growth phase of our program, and we have enough talent in our program at this point and enough depth, knock on wood, if we stay healthy to compete at a very high level."

● The conference coaches placed the Huskers in the upper half, barely, with defending champion Oklahoma a unanimous pick to repeat.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Oklahoma | 7. (tie) Texas Tech |
| 2. Texas A&M | 7. (tie) Kansas State |
| 3. Texas | 9. Missouri |
| 4. Baylor | 10. Kansas |
| 5. Iowa State | 11. Colorado |
| 6. Nebraska | 12. Oklahoma State |

● Senior Kiera Hardy, a preseason All-America selection and two-time, first-team All-Big 12 guard, again will lead the Huskers. Hardy was sidelined for a month before the start of practice after having her gallbladder removed. Hardy, a prolific scorer, will benefit defensively from a different style this season, "pressing, extending defense, and pressuring at half court," Yori said.

"We really haven't been able to do that for a number of reasons."

Lack of depth was a significant reason.

"As we go to that more and we begin to go to that later in the year, we think that's going to play into Kiera's hands defensively because Kiera is really good on the ball in the full court," said Yori.

"She can create a lot of defense — or offense with her defense." ■

CAN'T BE COACHED

Enthusiasm, a player either has it or he doesn't. "I don't think everybody's wired, mentally, to have that type of energy level," Cornhusker running backs coach Randy Jordan said recently. "I think you can catch it. It's contagious. I think of guys like (Brandon) Rigoni, who has that enthusiasm. I look at Chris Patrick; he's enthusiastic. They're guys that show genuine enthusiasm."

Rigoni, of course, has earned respect for his special teams play, while Patrick has emerged at offensive left tackle after coming to Nebraska as a 240-pound defensive end.

Patrick went through a difficult period after being moved to offense by coach Bill Callahan and his staff, according to offensive line coach Dennis Wagner. He was frustrated to the point of considering a transfer. "We just told him, 'We'd love to have you, but you've got to do it under our circumstances and what we want from you. You've got to be a team player, do what you can to help the team.'"

He has done that, waiting his turn for most of last season before finally getting his chance.

From the beginning, the coaches saw Patrick as an offensive lineman, said Wagner. "We just knew he had the enthusiasm and effort, a good way to put it, the energy to be a successful lineman."

Patrick can take enthusiasm to another level. "He'll pancake somebody and just start screaming for no reason, just things like that, crazy stuff," senior nose tackle Ola Dagunduro said.

Like a defensive lineman, "he just wants to beat somebody up," said Dagunduro.

Enthusiasm is essential to special teams, according to Rigoni. "I think discipline is easier to teach than enthusiasm, so if a guy's got heart and energy, we'll work with him," Rigoni said.

"If he doesn't have that, all the discipline in the world doesn't matter. There's more than just craziness. There's a plan to everything that goes on out there (on special teams)."

Freshman defensive backs Rickey Thenarse, Corey Young and Major Culbert have contributed on special teams, not only because of their ability but also because of their enthusiasm and energy, said Rigoni. For young players, the energy can begin to waver as the season goes along.

"We've got to keep those guys up and keep them going because they've done so much for us already," Rigoni said. "We're going to need them for the reason of the season. I think it's more mental than anything else, especially with those guys. They're not playing a whole lot on defense. They're not getting a ton of reps, so more than anything it's mental, gearing up for every play." ■



Chris Patrick

Quick Hits

NATIONAL QUALIFIER

The Nebraska women's tennis team will be represented at the ITA National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships in Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 2-5. Imke Reimers, a junior from Popenburg, Germany, advanced by defeating Mayori Franco of Arkansas 6-1, 6-2 at the Central Regional Main Draw Championship at Tulsa, Okla. The victory was Reimers' sixth in a row in singles competition. She and Husker teammate Maria Ring lost to Franco and Nanar Airapetian in doubles competition to begin the final day. She is the first Husker to advance to the indoor championships since 2004, when Gitte Ostermann qualified.

Reimers defeated Elizaveeta Avdeeva of Kansas 6-4, 7-6 (1) in the quarterfinals. She defeated Husker teammate Diana Kuhl 6-1, 6-1 in the third round, after defeating Patricia Cortes of Arkansas-Little Rock 6-0, 6-0 in the first round and Katka Kudlakova of Kansas State 6-3, 6-0 in the second round.

Kuhl advanced with victories against Marta Gomez-Jordana of Arkansas-Little Rock and Kindsay Grimes of Tulsa, while the Huskers' Wiveca Swarting defeated Raquel Wagner of Missouri in the first round and Airapetian in the second round before losing to Santie Delpont of Tulsa in the third.

BIG 12 FINISH

The Husker soccer team finished the Big 12 regular season with a 1-0 victory against Oklahoma at Norman, Okla. The shutout was Nebraska's fourth, and second in conference play. Sophomore Selenia Iacchelli scored the goal on an assist from sophomore Aysha Jamani in the 32nd minute.

The victory snapped a three-match losing streak, in which the Huskers had been shut out twice. NU improved to 9-6-3, including 4-5-1 in the conference.

The Big 12 Tournament is scheduled for Nov. 1-5 at San Antonio, Texas.

RAIN PROBLEM

The Nebraska men's golf team finished in a fifth-place tie at the Louisiana Tech/Squire Creek Classic at Ruston, La. The tournament was limited to one round after play on the first of two days was rained out. The Huskers had a 292 total to tie with South Alabama and Western Kentucky.

Senior Ty Capps led the Huskers with a 70, good for a sixth-place tie individually. The other Huskers who competed were: senior Ryan Lenahan, 73; senior Brady Schnell, 74; sophomore Trent Price, 75; and senior Drew Reynolds, 76.

DRADDY AWARD

Cornhusker senior football player Dane Todd is among 148 semifinalists for the 2006 Draddy Trophy, which recognizes an individual for academic success, football performance and community leadership. Semifinalists, which are nominated by their schools (one per school) must be a senior or graduate student in their final season of eligibility and have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale. The average GPA of the semifinalists is 3.51. Todd's is perfect, at 4.0

The award includes a bronze trophy and \$25,000 post-graduate scholarship. Former Huskers Rob Zatechka (1994) and Kyle Vanden Bosch (2000) are among previous winners.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

No surprise here; many former Cornhuskers have gone into coaching, including several among the head coaches in the high school ranks in Nebraska. According to the Lincoln Journal Star, they included this season: Larry Frost, Parkview Christian (Lincoln); Mike Fultz, Lincoln High; John Gingery, Lincoln East; Mark Hagge, Ord; Tim Johnk, Omaha Gross; Dan Malone, Fillmore Central; Andy Means, Millard South; Dave Ridder, West Point Central Catholic; Craig Schnitzler, Kenesaw; Matt Turman, Omaha Skutt; Tyler Zahn, Ralston; Barry Kitrell, Ashland-Greenwood.

SENSITIVE EYES

Senior defensive tackle Barry Cryer is among only a couple of Cornhuskers who wear a tinted shield with a facemask. "My eyes are sensitive to the light; that's all," he said.

Ola Dagunduro doesn't wear a shield because "it's hard for me to breath," the senior nose tackle said. In addition, it can sometimes fog up and impair a player's vision.

However, with a shield, offensive linemen can't poke you in the eyes, said Dagunduro, and they "can't read your eyes. If you're looking at where you're going, they can read your eyes."

BRIEFLY

● The Nebraska football walk-on program is alive and well under coach Bill Callahan. The Cornhusker roster includes 130 players, defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove said at a recent Big Red Breakfast in Omaha. And NCAA rules allow only 85 scholarship players. You do the math.

● Cosgrove mentioned walk-ons Kyle Moore and Justin Makovicka among the freshmen who have bright futures. He could "name a bunch of guys (freshman walk-ons)," Cosgrove said.

● The Husker women's basketball team recently received an oral commitment from Dominique Kelley, a 5-foot-9 Super-State guard from Lincoln (Neb.) Northeast High School, according to the Lincoln Journal Star. Kelley, a senior, was recruited by several schools, among them Colorado, Iowa State and Missouri in the Big 12, as well as Iowa, Colorado State and New Mexico, the newspaper reported. ■

Stay Close

I-backs know they need to be near when position coach calls their name



**Mike
BABCOCK**

EVEN WHEN HE'S NOT PLAYING, Brandon Jackson is active. He's moving along the sideline, trying to keep pace with running backs coach Randy Jordan. So are the other I-backs.

Jordan moves and they move with him, "like little geese when they're following their mom," Jackson said. The junior I-back from Horn Lake, Miss., laughed at the image.

Jordan "says stay close to him because if you don't get out there when he calls you, he'll throw another back in there," said Jackson. "So if you miss your play, you're . . ."

(Complete the preceding sentence with a colorful adjective meaning upset.)

An I-back gets called twice. And if he doesn't respond, Jordan sends in another.

Two-thirds of the way through the regular season, Nebraska's I-back committee remained intact. The depth chart had never changed at that position from the first week. And the order in which the I-backs were listed didn't reflect the order in which they were used in any given game.

Despite that uncertainty and the understandable frustration following games in which they haven't seen much action, if any, they all have continued to work hard, according to Jordan.

"They want to do better than the other guys, so it keeps them on their toes," he said.

Keeping them happy, as well, has been a challenge for the young coach.

"You're always putting out fires," said Jordan. "Sometimes I feel like Smoky the Bear."

Even though, by all indications, the committee is united by a common goal, it includes four individuals, each of whom wants to play and believes he's best for the job.

"You've got to be a little selfish," Jordan said. "You want to be able to carry the ball 20 to 25 times a game. I wouldn't want you if you wouldn't want to do that. You want the ball at crunch time.

"All those kids are like that. So you've really got to manage them. And they've bought in real good. They have bought in so good to the team in terms of, 'Hey, I may not get so many touches, but the big thing is I'm going to do the best I can when I'm in there.' So no rest, man."

Early in the season, Jackson appeared to be the odd man out, carrying only 12 times in the first three games. But he maintained his focus and prepared himself for when Jordan called his name.

He and Lucky were both on the field to start the Kansas game, and then he started against Iowa State, rushing for 116 yards and a touchdown on 22 carries — the most for

any of the I-backs through the first eight games. He also started the next two weeks, against Kansas State and Texas.

Though he was still part of a committee, Jackson had "really kind of separated himself," offensive coordinator Jay Norvell said on the Tuesday before the Oklahoma State game.

"He's been a guy that's played very well the last few weeks. And, you know, when you play well, you get more opportunities. And that's what kind of happened to Brandon."

How much he had separated himself "I don't know," said Norvell. "All those guys are going to get opportunities, but there's only one football. He's done a heck of a job, and we expect him to keep getting opportunities." And if he continued to respond as he had been, "he'll get a lot of them."



Brandon Jackson
rushed for 116 yards
against Iowa State.

The week of the Texas game, coach Bill Callahan was asked if he could compare Jackson's style to that of other running backs. "I've thought long and hard about that, and it's hard to compare him to anybody," Callahan said. "I think he's got his own unique style of running.

"He's elusive. He can break tackles. He's been a real factor for us; there's no question about that. A lot of Brandon's strengths are not only in the running game but as a pass protector, as a route runner. He's really a complete back in every sense. I'm extremely proud of Brandon."

Jackson was flattered by the remarks. "It's very special," he said.

Even so, he is taking nothing for granted.

The I-backs don't know which of them will get first crack at the defense until Friday night, when the game-opening script of 15 plays is distributed.

That's when they find out who's starting and who's doing what.

"Coach gives us the first 15 and says, 'Go over it in your head, just go over every play and know what you have to do, if you have to block, know your cuts and your angles,'" said Jackson.

Even if he's not on the script, he goes over such things in his mind. He was doing that early in the season, when he wasn't getting many opportunities to play. "I just knew I had to keep my head up," he said. "And when you get a chance to go out there, do what you have to do."

Jordan will call you when it's your turn. And it helps to be nearby. ■

Mike Babcock is a former sports columnist for the Lincoln Journal Star. He has covered Nebraska football for nearly 30 years. Mike can be reached at MBABCOCK1@neb.rr.com or P.O. Box 6782, Lincoln, NE 68506.

'Might Be Getting It'

Pinkel says his 2006 Tigers could be a little different



Curt McKEEVER

MISSOURI'S 4-0 NONCONFERENCE showing was undeniable proof that the Tigers would be a force in this year's Big 12 North Division race.

But signs of that occurring actually began last season, when the Tigers erased a 21-point deficit to beat South Carolina in the Independence Bowl.

While this year's team would be without the player who engineered that comeback, four-year starting quarterback Brad Smith, coach Gary Pinkel promised at a July media gathering in Kansas City, Mo., that his club would be fine without Mr. Smith.

"There's going to be a life after Brad," Pinkel said. "We have a lot of players that can touch the ball and do good things in this league. I think you'll be able to see that as the season goes on."

Pinkel also could take comfort in the fact that he'd prepared Smith's successor, Chase Daniel, by inserting him for at least one series in 10 games last season. Once, during a midseason contest against Iowa State, the redshirt freshman Daniel subbed for the injured Smith in the fourth quarter and rallied Mizzou from a 10-point deficit with eight minutes left to a 27-24 overtime win. In that contest, he was 16-for-23 passing for 185 yards and a touchdown.

"I've coached quite a few quarterbacks, and I've never seen a young player do that," Pinkel said. "Hopefully, that experience was huge for him."

It was — but even though the Tigers returned nine offensive and seven defensive starters from their 7-5 squad, without Smith they were viewed skeptically by the media.

"That is, to me, disrespect," senior safety David Overstreet said in regard to Missouri being tabbed to finish fifth in the North Division. "When I found out about that, I was so upset I couldn't wait to get on the field. I always play with a chip on my shoulder. With that, it's not going to be a chip anymore. It's going to be a boulder."

That attitude has obviously spread. But the Tigers have appeared more relaxed this season than mad.

After his club dominated Mississippi 34-7 in its second game, Pinkel told reporters, "These guys might be a little different. They might be getting it."

By "it," Pinkel meant the day-to-day consistency that leads to a lot of fun Saturdays — something Missouri hasn't had nearly enough of to please its sixth-year coach. The Tigers' best season under Pinkel came in 2003, when they started 4-0, went 8-3, then lost a bowl game. The only other time Pinkel got them off to a 2-0 start, in 2002, they finished 5-7.

After the win against Mississippi, Pinkel was asked if he thought this was his best overall squad.

"I think we're playing with a more experienced football team than what we've had, and I think we've recruited well," he said. "But I think the judgment on that will take place in about three months."

He then let loose with a laugh that provided a big clue about his comfort level.

"We'll see what happens," Pinkel continued. "But I am very pleased with the effort of and leadership of our football team."

On both accounts, Pinkel could begin with Daniel, unquestionably the Tigers' X factor going into the season.

After throwing for 320 yards and a school-record five touchdowns against Murray State in the opener, Daniel showed another dimension by rushing for a game-high 89 yards against Mississippi.

"He loves game day. He's loves playing quarterback — and he likes to win — and I think that's probably the thing that I like most about him," Pinkel said.

In Missouri's first three games, Daniel was a perfect fit to run the no-huddle spread attack. The next week, the Tigers were guilty of nine penalties and three turnovers, but they still cruised past Ohio 31-6 mainly behind a defense was one of the last six nationally to give up a rushing touchdown.

"If people are upset about 31-6 and we didn't play very good, that's probably OK," Pinkel said after the game.

His club would open Big 12 play by defeating defending North Division champ Colorado, then dropped a close contest at Texas A&M. But Mizzou rebounded by routing Kansas State to snap a 13-game losing streak to the Wildcats.

That result left the Tigers with an eight-game home winning streak (tied for the second longest in school history) before they were to play host to Oklahoma on Oct. 28.

Entering it, Missouri's offense ranked 14th nationally in total yardage and 16th in points, as Daniel was No. 7 with a 281.3-yard average. He also had the 18th-best pass-efficiency rating.

"Probably of all the quarterbacks I've coached all the years, I've never had a guy come in and lead like this," said Pinkel, who's helped steer six quarterbacks to the NFL. "A quarterback has got to do it his own way. He came in with a very confident, but not cocky at all type attitude. He's a born leader, and it certainly is a huge influence on our team."

Missouri's defense wasn't taking a back seat to the offense, either. The Tigers ranked 17th in scoring defense and 21st in yards allowed.

But they'll play the rest of the season without their career sacks leader Brian Smith, who fractured his right hip during the Kansas State game.

"Everybody else has got to do a little bit more (now), Pinkel said. "To say 'That's no big deal, we just move on' — that's not true."

The truth about the Tigers is Pinkel's got them right where they wanted to be come November — in control of their North Division fate. ■



Gary Pinkel is in his sixth year as head coach at Missouri.

Curt McKeever is a sportswriter for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football, he is the primary beat writer for baseball. Curt can be reached at cmckeever@journalstar.com

'Nebraska and

Gill says Osborne was the main reason he picked Huskers over Sooners

By Mike Babcock

Darrell Royal summed it up as well as anyone. "If I was still coaching and he got away, I'd be sick," the former Texas football coach, and Hall of Famer, said at the time.

He was referring to Turner Gill, a high school quarterback from Fort Worth, Texas, who had signed a letter of intent with Nebraska after narrowing his choices to one other school, Oklahoma.

The truth was, Texas had never really been in the running, although Gill had taken a visit to Austin at the behest of his coach at Arlington Heights High School, Merlin Priddy. Because he was from the state, he owed Texas that courtesy, plus he was curious about the Longhorns' baseball program.

However, "really deep down inside it was always Nebraska and Oklahoma," Gill said.

Growing up, he imagined himself playing for the Sooners. "I always said if Oklahoma gave me an opportunity to have a scholarship, that's where I was going to go," he said.

"It clicked with me that I wanted to be a Sooner. And I did kind of want to go away a little bit from Texas, go away from it a little bit. That was one of my things."

Another of his things was that he

Ninth in a Series

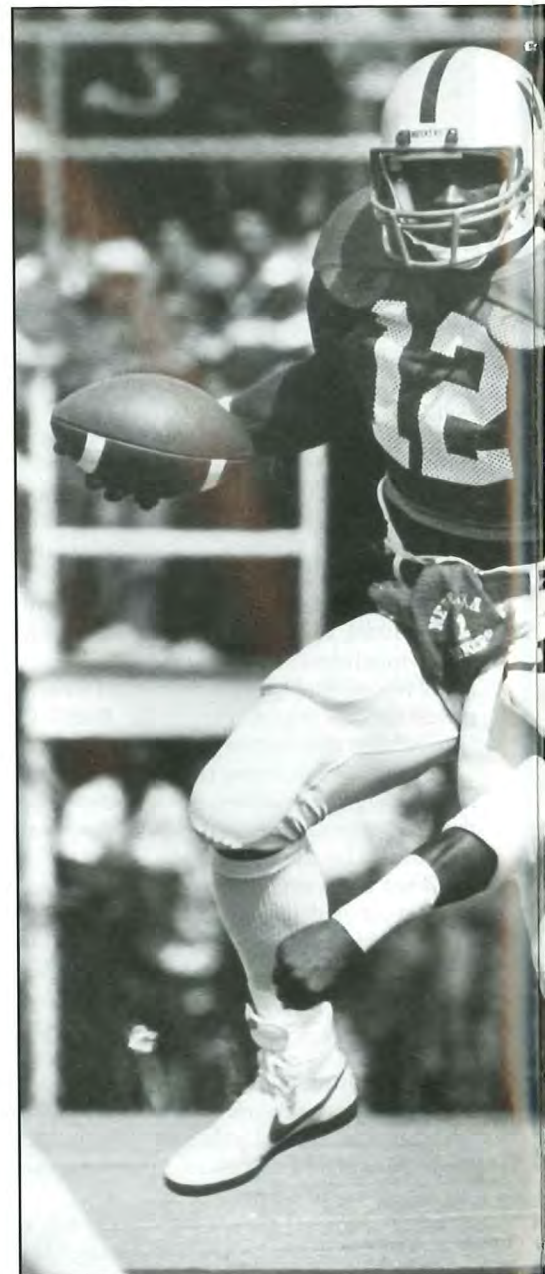
would play baseball as well as football. In fact, he was dreaming of playing professional baseball before he began dreaming of playing at Oklahoma.

He had played baseball since he was 8-years old and was good enough that the Chicago White Sox selected him as an infielder in the second round of the 1980 Major League draft.

Reportedly, the White Sox were offering \$25,000 less than what he and his parents were asking, \$100,000. So Cornhusker fans could finally breathe a collective sigh of relief.

Nebraska and Oklahoma both offered an opportunity to play baseball as well as football. But in picking a school "I just wanted to be in a football environment," he said. "College football, there's nothing like it, being around the fans, the noise, the cheering going up with the fans."

He also wanted to play quarterback, even though he hadn't started at that position until his senior season in high school. He was a second-team all-city defensive back as a junior, backing up at quarterback and flanker. He excelled at quarterback as well as defensive back as a senior but didn't earn all-state recognition and



wasn't picked to play in the Texas high school all-star game.

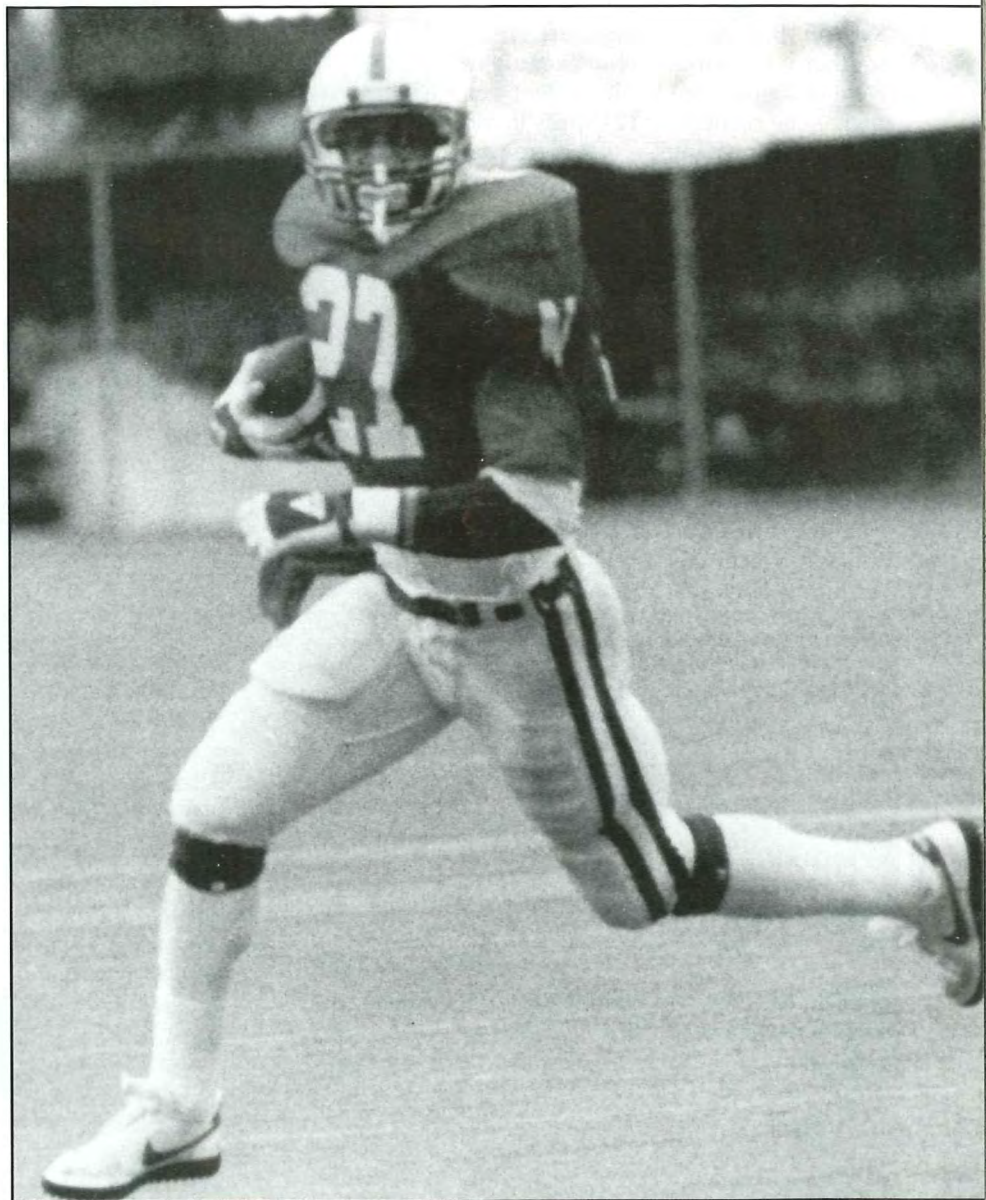
Even so, Nebraska and Oklahoma recruited him aggressively, the Sooners despite getting a commitment from another prize quarterback, Ricky Byers from LaPorte, Texas.

Byers was regarded as the best

nd Oklahoma'



Huskers Illustrated file photos



Turner Gill (left) and Irving Fryar (above) were two-thirds of what Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer would call "the triplets." The third was Mike Rozier, who spent his freshman season at Coffeyville (Kan.) Community College.

option quarterback in the state.

Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne closed the deal. "Just the way he was, he really won me over," said Gill. "Definitely, Coach Osborne was the main reason I chose to come (to Nebraska).

When he made his official visit to

Nebraska, taking his first-ever plane ride, he found "4 or 5 inches" of snow on the ground. But the weather wasn't a factor. His decision would be based on something more substantial. His recruiting hosts included Andra Franklin and Paul Letcher.

"They showed me a great experi-

ence," he said.

The people "that were going to surround me" were a key to his decision, Gill said. "I knew they were going to help me become a better football player, but how were they going to help me become a better person and help me learn as much as I could and grow

in a lot of different ways?"

Gill wasn't the Cornhuskers' only high-profile recruit in 1980. In fact, the class, which included three other Texans and 11 in-state athletes, was generally regarded as Osborne's best to that point.

Jeff Smith, an I-back from Wichita, Kan., was equally prominent, also picking Nebraska over Oklahoma, as well as Arkansas, UCLA and another Big Eight rival, Missouri.

Initially, the Cornhuskers pursued Kerwin Bell, a running back from southern California who eventually went to Kansas. But Smith's talent was such — he rushed for 124 yards in the Kansas Shrine game — that there was talk he would play as a true freshman, returning kicks.

Scott Kimball, a split end from Camarillo, Calif., and the younger brother of former Oklahoma split end Bobby Kimball, also was considered a possibility to play immediately. Neither he nor Smith did, however. In fact, none in the class did much more than suit up for varsity games.

Kimball and Smith joined Gill and the others — except for Bill Weber, who redshirted — on coach Frank Solich's freshman team. And the recruiting class that formed the basis for what would be the "Scoring Explosion" in 1983 served notice by rolling to five victories.

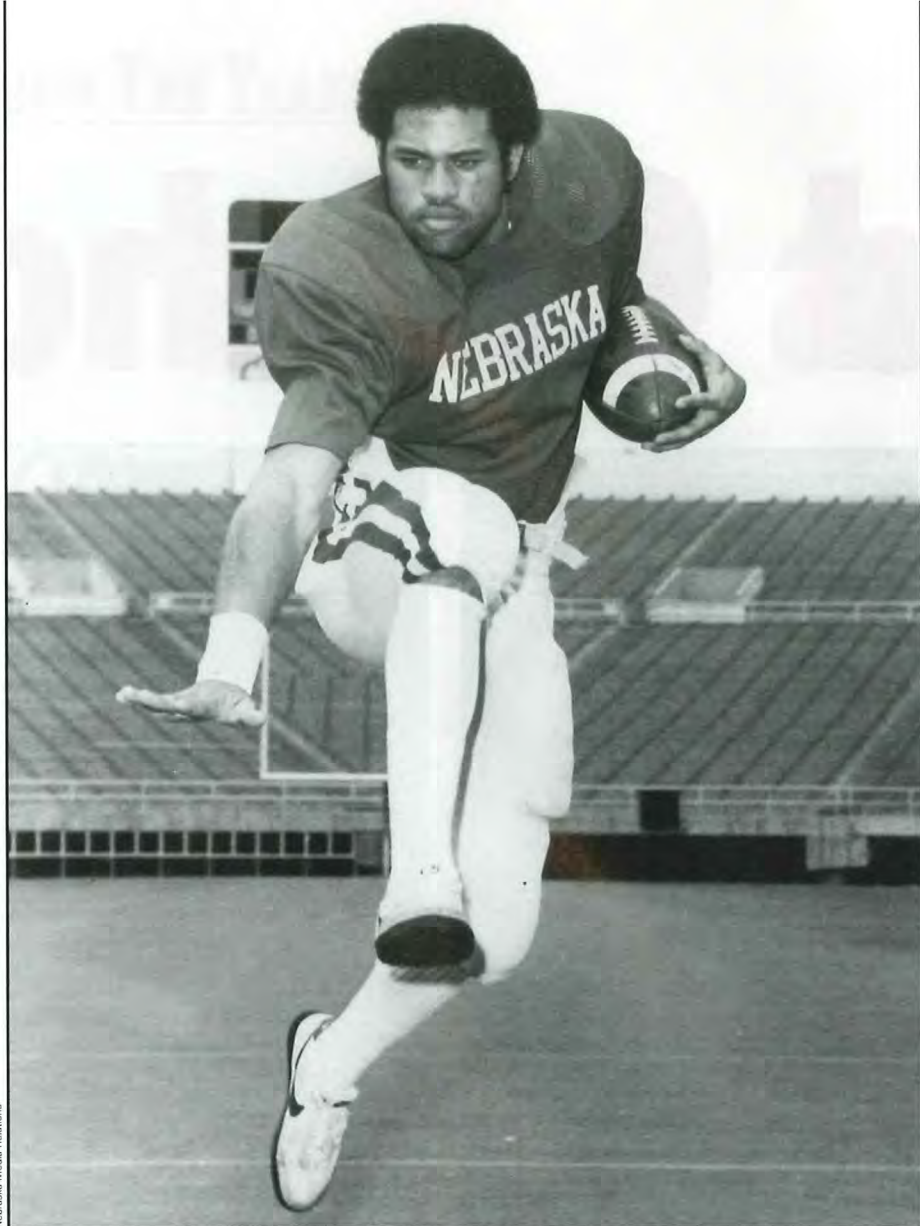
The Gill-led freshmen averaged 516 yards and 51.4 points. Included were victories of 62-7 against the Oklahoma State freshman-junior varsity team and 73-34 against Triton Junior College.

Gill set a Cornhusker freshman total offense record, 981 yards, including 679 passing on 34-of-52 completions with eight touchdowns. His favorite receiver, and freshman roommate, was Irving Fryar, whom Solich had found in Mt. Holly, N.J., while recruiting another player.

Fryar, an undersized tight end and defensive back in high school, would play wingback and draw comparisons to Nebraska's first Heisman Trophy winner, Johnny Rodgers.

He and Fryar "kind of hit it right off the bat there early on," Gill said. "Initially, Irving mentioned he wanted to room with a quarterback. Irving was a guy that, 'Hey, I want to have the ball in my hands.' You like that type of approach, a guy that wants the ball and be able to make plays.

"Irving and I hit it off pretty well, right off the bat from the standpoint of



Jeff Smith, an I-back from Wichita, Kan., was among the highly regarded recruits who came to Nebraska in 1980.

roommates and also just as football players. He had a passion for the game. I had a passion for the game, and we really clicked off on a lot of things, and it carried on for the next three years."

Fryar earned consensus All-America recognition as a senior, becoming only the second receiver on a team that led the nation in rushing to earn such recognition during the two-platoon era.

The first was the Cornhuskers' Freeman White in 1965.

Fryar would finish second on Nebraska's all-time list for receiving yards (1,196), behind only Rodgers, and tied for sixth all-time in receptions, with 67. He led the Big Eight in punt returns as a sophomore and junior before giving way to Smith as a senior in 1983.

He left the Cornhuskers as the

overall No. 1 pick in the 1984 NFL draft. He "just didn't want to be beaten in anything in life," said Gill. "He was just such a competitor."

Fryar played 17 professional seasons and is now an ordained minister. He has "reached out and touched a lot of people's lives in a lot of great ways," Gill said.

Gill was chosen to the Associated Press All-America second team in 1983 and finished fourth in voting for the Heisman Trophy, behind teammate and winner Mike Rozier, and he was a three-time, first-team All-Big Eight honoree, leading Nebraska to three conference championships.

In addition to Fryar, safety Bret Clark, offensive guard Harry Grimminger and center Mark Traynowicz would earn All-America recognition — all as seniors in 1984.

Fryar and Gill were two-thirds of

what Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer would call "the triplets." Rozier was the other, and part of the 1980 recruiting class, really, except that for academic reasons he spent his freshman season at Coffeyville (Kan.) Community College before following through on a commitment to Osborne, despite renewed recruiting attention for his play there.

Rozier "was tough mentally and physically," said Gill. "You have to be that way. All the great ones, I think, are very tough mentally and physically, meaning they can handle adversity. They can handle something that maybe is physically wrong with them, but they still push through it."

Gill could have been describing himself. He suffered a calf injury in the next-to-last game of the regular season in 1981, an injury that might have ended his career. But he came back to set the standard by which Cornhusker quarterbacks were measured during the option era.

He is now in his first season as head coach at Buffalo University, of course.

He has contributed much to Nebraska as a player and then an assistant coach, under Osborne, Solich and Bill Callahan. Picking Nebraska

Recruiting list, 1980

Player, Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	Letters
Ron Bachmann, OT-DT	6-8	280	St. Louis, Mo.	
Mark Behning, C-OT	6-7	265	Denton, Texas	1982-83-84
Eric Buchanan, WB-DB	6-2	190	Shawnee Mission, Kan.	1982
Dave Burke, IB-FB	5-11	190	Layton, Utah	1982-83-84
Bret Clark, DB-QB	6-3	190	Nebraska City, Neb.	1982-83-84
Irving Fryar, SE-DB	6-0	185	Mt. Holly, N.J.	1981-82-83
Turner Gill, QB	6-1	185	Fort Worth, Texas	1981-82-83
Ricky Greene, IB	5-10	180	Seminole, Texas	1983-84
Harry Grimminger, OT	6-4	240	Grand Island, Neb.	1982-83-84
Neil Harris, SE-WB	6-2	175	Kansas City, Kan.	1982-83-84
Pete Hill, FB-DE	6-0	195	Omaha, Neb.	
Scott Kimball, SE	6-1	180	Camarillo, Calif.	1982-83-84
Chris Knust, QB	6-2	180	Omaha, Neb.	
Brian Kramer, OT-DT	6-2	259	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	
Scott McLaughlin, OG	6-2	240	Houston, Texas	
Scott Norberg, SE	5-11	175	Tempe, Ariz.	
Tim Peterson, RB	6-0	172	Cambridge, Neb.	
Scott Porter, IB-FB	6-2	210	Nebraska City, Neb.	1983-84
Jeff Smith, IB	5-10	175	Wichita, Kan.	1982-83-84
Rob Stuckey, DT	6-3	230	Lexington, Neb.	1982-83-84
Craig Sundberg, QB	6-1	184	Lincoln, Neb.	1982-83-84
Anthony Thomas, OG	6-4	295	San Francisco	1982-83-84
Mark Traynowicz, OT-OG	6-5	235	Bellevue, Neb.	1982-83-84
Bill Weber, DE-TE	6-2	195	Lincoln, Neb.	1981-82-83-84
Jim Wischmann, DE-LB	6-5	205	Papillion, Neb.	

State breakdown: Nebraska 11, Texas 4, Kansas 3, California 2, Arizona, Iowa, Missouri, New Jersey, Utah.

was the right decision, for many reasons, not the least of which was meeting his wife, Gayle, there. "I just thank God for putting Gayle in my life," he said.

"She's truly a blessing, great for my life and great for my whole family."

Just as it was a blessing and great for Cornhusker football that he got away from Texas. ■

Bob Devaney, 1915-1997



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Always Ready

***Backup quarterback
Ganz only worries
about the things
he can control***

By Terry Douglass

Joe Ganz has always been extremely competitive by nature. How competitive? When Ganz was a youngster playing games with his friends, his mother, Debbie, told him on several occasions that he should sometimes let his playmates win because otherwise, he might not have any friends.

Apparently, such threats weren't nearly grave enough to make Ganz change his ways.

"I couldn't do it," Ganz said. "I'm one of the most competitive people that I know — my friends tell me that all the time.

"Whatever it is, I don't want to lose. If there's something that has a winner and a loser, I have to win."

Ganz has done little to keep his competitiveness in check ever since. In fact, the 6-foot-1, 200-pound redshirt sophomore from Palos Heights, Ill., believes that his inner drive to succeed has been one of his greatest assets as he's climbed to the No. 2 position on Nebraska's depth chart at quarterback.

"You have to be the ultimate competitor to play quar-

#12 JOE GANZ
SOPHOMORE QUARTERBACK

terback," Ganz said. "There's no way you can play at such a high-level program like this and not strive to be perfect."

Cornhusker fans gained a little insight into Ganz's personality during preseason camp when it was announced that former Arizona State quarterback Sam Keller was transferring to Nebraska. When asked about the potential competition, Ganz's initial response was to bring it on.

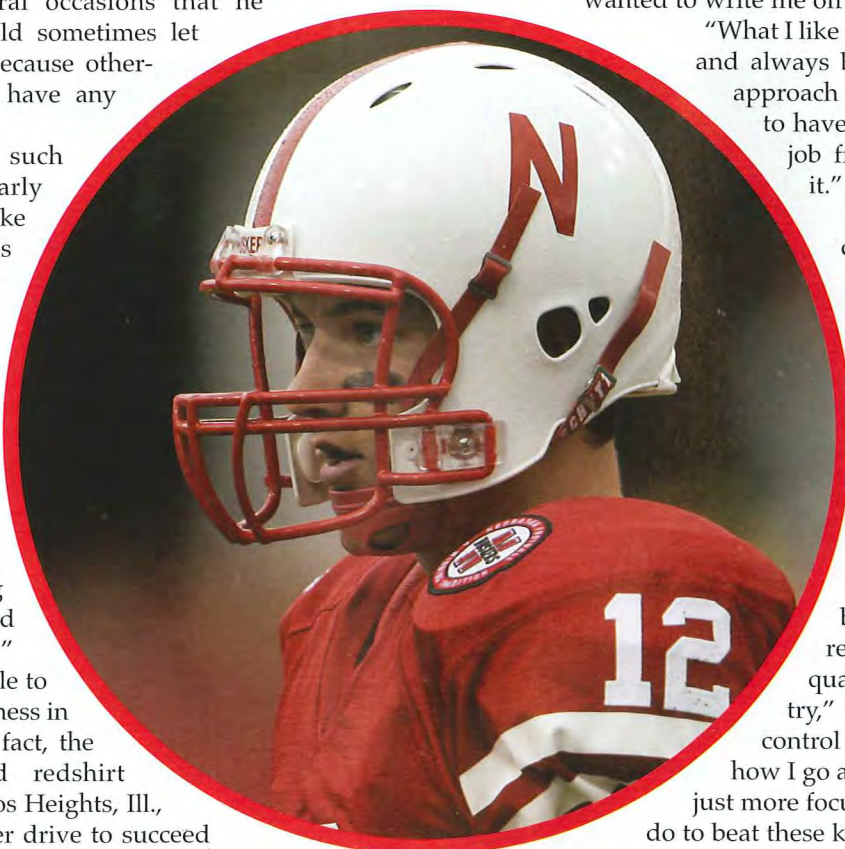
"I came here to play," Ganz said. "A lot of people wanted to write me off when Harrison (Beck) was coming. Then, (Josh) Freeman was going to come here, and they wanted to write me off again.

"What I like to do is stay consistent and always be there and take the approach that someone is going to have to come and take the job from me if they want it."

Regardless of the competition, Ganz operates with the philosophy that he'll only worry about the things that he can control — things like his own preparation and performance.

"I'm not going to look too much into it if they're going to bring in a five-star recruit or the No. 1 quarterback in the country," Ganz said. "All I can control is how I prepare and how I go about my business. I'm just more focused on what I have to do to beat these kids out."

So despite all the hype and attention that was heaped upon players like Beck, who transferred to North Carolina State in August, and Freeman, who de-committed from Nebraska and signed with Kansas State,



Scott Bruhn

Ganz remains. The 2006 season finds him potentially one snap away from being the Huskers' starting quarterback.

Although he appeared in just three of Nebraska's first eight games, Ganz has performed well in relief of starter Zac Taylor. He completed six of his first 12 passes for 93 yards and two touchdowns with no interceptions.

"I've been pretty pleased with how I've played," Ganz said. "Just preparing every week just helps out so much and getting a year more into the system has helped me become a lot more comfortable, and the game has seemed to slow down for me."

Nebraska wide receiver Nate Swift said the first-team offense is definitely comfortable with Ganz at the controls.

"If Zac would go down, there would be a little change with Joe coming in there, but it would only be because of experience," Swift said. "Once he gets comfortable in there and has a couple of plays, I think he'll be — maybe not just as good right away — but he'll be just like Zac out there, controlling the offense."

"He demands everything, just like Zac does in practice. He hits all the routes. He knows all the reads and he does great just like Zac does in practice."

While Ganz obviously doesn't get as many practice repetitions as Taylor, he said he prepares as much as possible each week. As the backup quarterback, Ganz said his No. 1 job is to always be ready — always.

"Being the backup, you've got to prepare like the starter," Ganz said. "I have to watch film, and I have to do everything that Zac's going to do so, in case something does happen, I'll be there and hopefully the offense won't lose any momentum."

"It's tough preparing when you think you're probably not going to play, but it's something you've got to do."

The prospect of potentially having to come off the bench with the game on the line serves as Ganz's daily source of motivation. It pushes him to never grow lax in his preparation.

"If that time comes and you're not prepared, you're going to wish that you could go back in time," Ganz said. "I don't want to have any

excuses if I get to go in there, saying I wasn't prepared or I didn't get enough reps. I just want to be able to go in there and help the team win."

Despite his competitive nature, Ganz said he and Taylor have a very good relationship. Ganz said he harbors "no bitterness at all" in regards to Taylor, who was brought in as a junior college transfer prior to the 2005 season — even though Ganz has been with the program since the start of Bill Callahan's tenure as head coach in 2004.

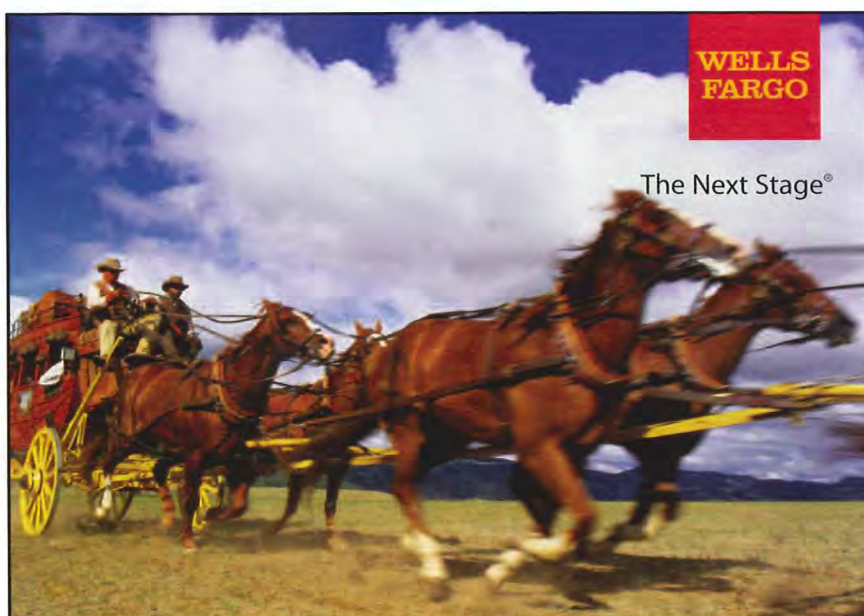
Because he already had a year's worth of experience in the program, Ganz was able to help Taylor with the learning process in the West Coast

offense. Ganz, in turn, said he's learned plenty from Taylor.

"He's an older guy who has played football at a higher level than I have for longer, so you try to take little things from him like the way he prepares and the way he goes about watching film," Ganz said. "If you're around great players, you want to take as much away from them as you can. Zac's a great player, so I want to learn as much as I can because he's done a great job with this offense."

"Hopefully, I can follow in his footsteps." ■

Terry Douglass is the sports editor of the *Grand Island (Neb.) Independent*. He can be reached at terry.douglass@charter.net.



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10 QUESTIONS



Scott Bruhn

Maintaining focus during games isn't a problem for Bryan Wilson. He's a gunner on the punt team. He plays on the kickoff team and sometimes on the punt return team. And as the season has gone on, he has begun to see action in the dime package. "So I have to be alert pretty much all the time," he said.

Special teams have been the springboard, and nothing is more exciting than kickoffs. "The crowd gets up big for the kickoff unit," said Wilson. "A kickoff is the crowd favorite."

Wilson is much more comfortable than last season, his first at Nebraska after two in junior college. He originally committed to Oregon State but went to the College of the Canyons, where he sat out because of injury. He transferred to Pierce College and then on to Nebraska.

He arrived expecting to play cornerback but was moved to safety. His preference was cornerback, but now "it doesn't really matter to me," he said. Safety "gives you more time to read and react to what's going on. You actually have more space to make plays. So I like it. I'm enjoying it."

"We've got a great bunch of guys. It's real cool. It's a good change for me."

What's the best thing served at the training table?

"Parmesan chicken; they've served that the last two weeks on Thursday, and it's been pretty good. Thursdays they kind of give you the change-up, and that's been the change-up the last two times."

If you could excel in another sport at the collegiate level, what sport would it be?

"I'd probably say track because track was my first love, the first sport I ever participated in, actually. Football was the last. Track, then basketball and then I got into football. I did sprints, 100, 200, 400, both relays. I did those all through high school. I did high jump until the eighth grade, but it was bad for my shins, so I had to stop. I went to state my senior year, then I stopped running. We didn't have a track team at Pierce

with

BRYAN WILSON

**6-1/200 Jr. Safety
Granada Hills, Calif.**

(College). In our conference, we were the only school that didn't have a track team."

If you had a CD player and only three CDs to play, what would they be?

"2Pac, All Eyez on Me; man, I can't even think. I just listen to music now; I listen to so much. Kanye West and John Legend; he's a good singer, a real good, natural singer. I listen to him before games, something real slow and smooth, right before you go out. It kind of calms you down, gets you focused on the game. Then you get out there, and you've got 85,000 people screaming."

If you could spend 30 minutes with a celebrity, sports or otherwise, who would you pick?

"I'd kick it with Michael Jordan, probably, Michael Jordan or Magic Johnson, just what they accomplished on and off the court."

What's the best movie you've ever seen?

"Man, 'The Sentinel' and 'Inside Man,' two good movies we saw on the bus ride to Iowa State. Those two movies made the bus ride pretty good."

Britney Spears or Jessica Simpson?

"Definitely Jessica Simpson, definitely, hands down. She's beautiful. Britney Spears, maybe if I was like 13, I would have said Britney Spears. Jessica Simpson is a better grown woman. I think 'The Dukes of Hazzard' kind of separated them, the shorts."

Who's the best dresser on the team?

"There are a couple of us, actually. I'd have to throw myself in there, Barry Cryer, who else? Steve Octavien, he gets dressed up. Game day, you'd have to go with Barry, Tierre Green or Titus Brothers. Titus was pretty sharp last year. He was as sharp as Cory Ross and Daniel Bullocks. He's got a nice little arsenal of suits, so I'll give it to Titus on game day."

When you cook for yourself, what's your specialty?

"I'm a breakfast guy, so bacon, eggs, pancakes. I keep it simple because I don't want to burn the apartment down. I don't try to get too extravagant with it."

Other than family and friends, what do you miss most about Granada Hills?

"I'm 20 minutes north of LA, so if I wanted to, I could just hop on the freeway and go to the city and hang out, do all that. I was kind of like in the middle of everything. You had to pass through my city to get wherever you were going on the 5 Freeway. Traffic isn't a bad thing if you're hanging out with the right person in the passenger's seat. It can be fun, so traffic's not a problem."

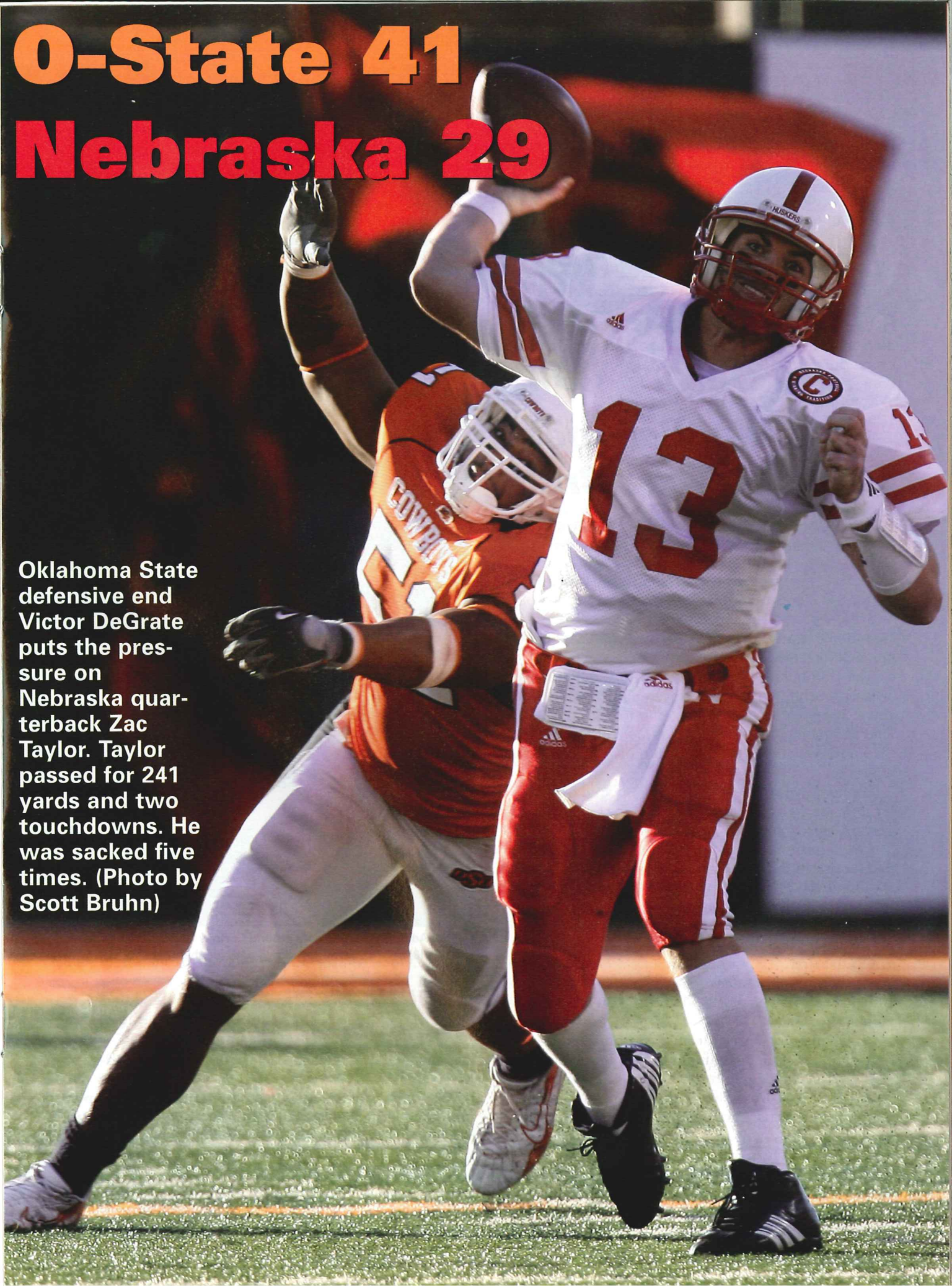
What is your favorite television show?

"'The Boondocks' and 'Family Guy.' I'm a big 'Family Guy' fan. 'The Boondocks' is a real funny show. Me and Terrence (Nunn) used to watch it on Sunday night and then come to school and talk about it on Monday, laugh and joke about it the whole week. It's not on this season. But I've got it on DVD. I can watch it any time. It's still funny." ■

O-State 41

Nebraska 29

Oklahoma State defensive end Victor DeGrate puts the pressure on Nebraska quarterback Zac Taylor. Taylor passed for 241 yards and two touchdowns. He was sacked five times. (Photo by Scott Bruhn)



Less Than a

Long return helps OSU strike back just before half

By Mike Babcock

Photos: Scott Bruhn

Somehow, Maurice Purify managed to stay in bounds. And because of that athletic contortion, after catching a Zac Taylor pass, he was able to score a touchdown.

The play covered 22 yards and gave Nebraska breathing room. After Jordan Congdon's extra-point kick, the score was 23-13. Only 56 seconds remained in the first half.

The Cornhuskers had responded to Oklahoma State's second touchdown with the seven-play, 78-yard scoring drive. It appeared they were going to take the 10-point lead and momentum to the locker room at Boone Pickens Stadium, which was far from full on a pleasant October afternoon.

Sophomore Jake Wesch, who had replaced Congdon on kickoffs for the game, sent the ball to the Oklahoma State 16-yard line as the clock began. Perrish Cox fielded it.

Cox, a freshman from Waco, Texas, went into the game tied for first in the Big 12 in kickoff returns, so what he did shouldn't have been surprising . . . although Nebraska had emphasized the kicking game during the week's practices. Cox returned the ball 39 yards to the Cornhusker 45-yard line.

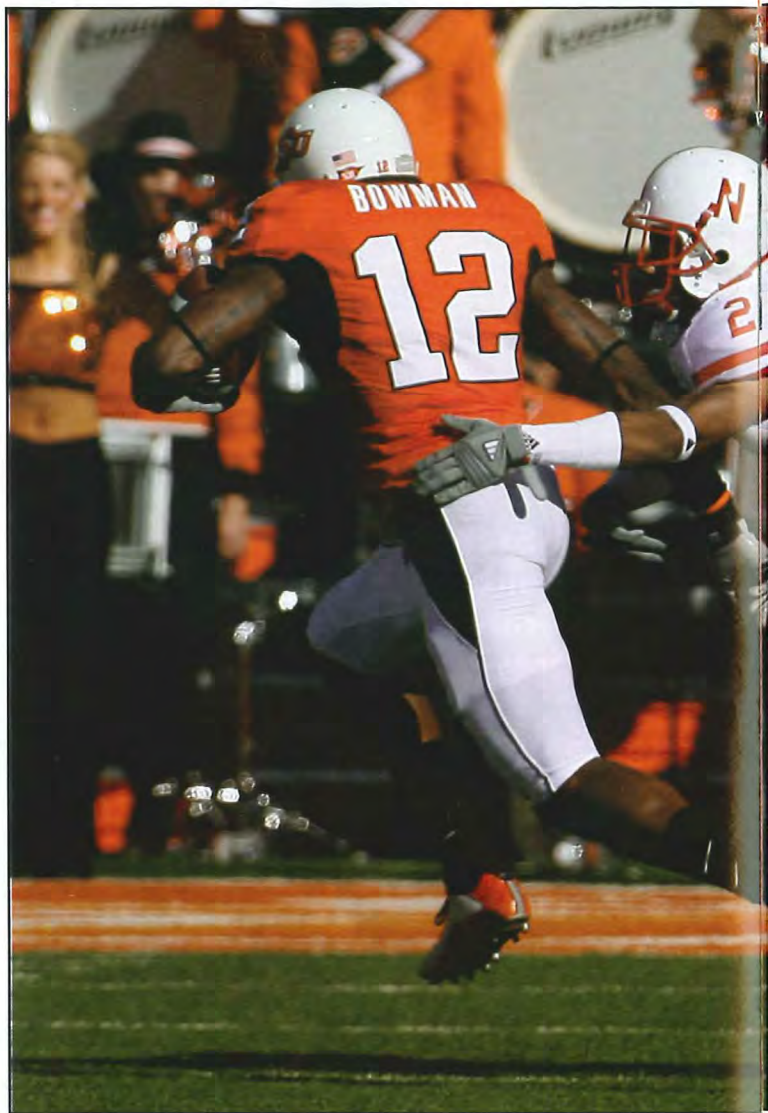
On the first play, Oklahoma State quarterback Bobby Reid teamed with Adarius Bowman for a touchdown. And just like that, Nebraska's halftime lead was only three points.

"It begins with special teams," Cornhusker coach Bill Callahan said. "I felt coming into this game that special teams (play) was going to be a phase that we had to at least match. And we didn't do that.

"It really hurt us, hurt us right before the half especially."

The kickoff return by Cox was "the killer," he said.

Still, Nebraska had the lead, which it could have increased, if only slightly, at the beginning of the second half. The Cornhuskers drove 55 yards to the Oklahoma State 25-yard line, with the key play being a 15-yard



OSU's Adarius Bowman gets around Cortney Grixby (2) and Andrew Shanle (8) on a 45-yard touchdown pass just before halftime.

WORTH ANOTHER LOOK

scramble by quarterback Zac Taylor on a third-and-10 at the Nebraska 38.

The drive stalled, and Congdon came on to attempt a 42-yard field goal. The sophomore from San Diego had initiated the scoring with a 26-yarder less than 7 minutes into the game.

This time, however, he missed.

Add to that a failed extra-point attempt because of a botched snap, following the Cornhuskers' second touchdown, early in the second quarter, and Callahan had fur-

Minute



ther reason for frustration with the kicking game. "We've got to go back to work on rectifying those errors," he said.

More than the kicking game unraveled in the second half, against an Oklahoma State team characterized by its second-half play, according to Callahan.

Nebraska showed "flashes of good plays," he said. But not enough to match the Cowboys, who scored 21 unanswered points in the fourth quarter to take control. The Cornhuskers didn't quit, driving 80 yards on 12 plays to a touchdown with 7 seconds remaining to make the final score slightly more respectable.

But in a finish befitting Nebraska's performance, Congdon's extra-point attempt failed. The miss was his first since his first extra-point kick as a collegian in the 2005 opener against Maine. ■

REPORT CARD

RUSHING OFFENSE

Nebraska started strong, rushing for 159 yards on 23 carries in the first half but went away from the run in the second half because "when they jumped ahead a little bit, we started airing it out," Callahan said. "That's when we got caught in a throwing game." ★★★

PASSING OFFENSE

Quarterback Zac Taylor completed 21-of-39 passes for 241 yards and two touchdowns, without an interception. But those numbers were distorted by 9-of-10 completions for 109 yards in the first half. "There were instances where our protection could have been better. He got beat up a little bit," said Callahan. Taylor was sacked a season-high five times. "I thought overall he was making pretty good decisions. We had to do a better job of route running for him." ★★★

RUSHING DEFENSE

Oklahoma State went into the game ranked second in the conference (and 10th nationally) in rushing, averaging 203.3 yards per game on the ground, while Nebraska ranked third in the conference (and 26th nationally) in rushing defense. The Cowboys won the battle on the ground, rushing for 267 yards and averaging 6.5 yards per carry. "Their running game, I thought, was outstanding," Callahan said. "We've got to play better at the second level, no doubt about it."★★

PASSING DEFENSE

The Cowboys were second to Nebraska in the Big 12 in total offense, and they showed why with run-pass balance. "With the two receivers they have, when you play them as a coach, it's like playing a game of chess," Cosgrove said, referring to D'Juan Woods and Adarius Bowman. When Nebraska tried to double-cover Woods and Bowman, the running game opened up, and vice versa.★★

SPECIAL TEAMS

Going into the game, Callahan expected special teams to be a significant factor. And it was, to the Cornhuskers' detriment. "I wasn't satisfied with the fielding decisions, our coverage, our kicking. We had a complete collapse and meltdown in the special-teams phase," he said. ★

NUMBERS

11

Brandon Jackson carried 11 times for 99 yards in the first quarter. The junior I-back carried only twice in the second quarter. "I think we were fine in the first half," coach Bill Callahan said. "I don't think there's anything to read into that." Jackson got only eight carries in the second half.

NEBRASKA-OKLAHOMA ST. NOTES

BUSTED PLAY

Cowboy quarterback Bobby Reid hurt Nebraska with his feet as well as his arm. On second-and-7 from his own 23-yard line in the second quarter, the 6-foot-3, 230-pound sophomore from Houston broke off a 56-yard run to set up Oklahoma State's first touchdown.

"That changed the game," Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said. "That gave us an opportunity to say, 'Now we can score, and if we stop them, we will have a chance.'"

PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT

Nebraska had 23 points and 268 yards of offense in the first half but didn't score in the second half until 7 seconds remained. "I have to give credit to the defensive staff and their halftime adjustments," said Gundy. "The defense ran some different schemes in the second half to slow down the run. Late in the game, we put a lot of pressure on a very good quarterback."

The Cowboys sacked Zac Taylor five times.

CAN'T HOLD IT

Less than 5 minutes into the second quarter, Nebraska led 16-0. But the Cornhuskers couldn't hold on. "It's tough because we felt like we were doing a lot of things offensively and that we were really taking advantage of them," said Taylor. "You've got to give them credit; they stepped up and they started making plays and adjustments. The second and third quarter we really could have taken advantage of the lead, but offensively we just didn't do it."

RECORDS, IN PASSING

Taylor's first pass attempt of the game was incomplete. Then he completed nine consecutive passes during the remainder of the first half. He finished the game with 241 passing yards to surpass 2,000 for a second consecutive season. He set the school single-season record a year ago (2,653).

He is just 10 yards from holding the top two spots on the single-season list.

Taylor's 4,718 career-passing yards are just 318 shy of the Cornhuskers' career leader, Dave Humm, who threw for 5,035 yards from 1972 to 1974.

Taylor threw two touchdown passes, for 18 on the season and 37 for his career. Nebraska's single-season record for touchdown passes is 20 and its career record is 43, by Tommie Frazier.

He was less efficient in the second half against the Cowboys. "I was just out of rhythm," said Taylor. "It was really embarrassing because those were throws I could have taken advantage of."

"I was just frustrated with myself."

PURELY PURIFY

Junior wide receiver Maurice Purify, who made his first start, caught both of Taylor's touchdown passes, his fourth and fifth of the season. He has caught four touchdown passes in the last four games. He has 11 receptions good for gains of longer than 20 yards, and 19 of his 23 catches have gone for first downs.

NO SURPRISES

Defensive end and co-captain Adam Carriker was asked if Oklahoma State did anything offensively that Nebraska hadn't expected. "They didn't come out and run the quadruple option or anything," he said.

Cowboy running back Dantrell Savage, who rushed for 117 yards and two touchdowns, made a spin move against Carriker that had Gundy comparing him to former Oklahoma State Heisman Trophy winner Barry Sanders. "He can make big plays," Cowboy offensive lineman Corey Hilliard said.

"Everybody saw that spin move he put on No. 90 (Carriker). He can make guys miss."

PICK YOUR POISON

Oklahoma State's ability to balance the run and pass created a defensive quandary for Nebraska. When the Blackshirts double-covered Oklahoma State's receivers, the Cowboys gashed them with the run. And when they focused on stopping the run, the receivers were left open.

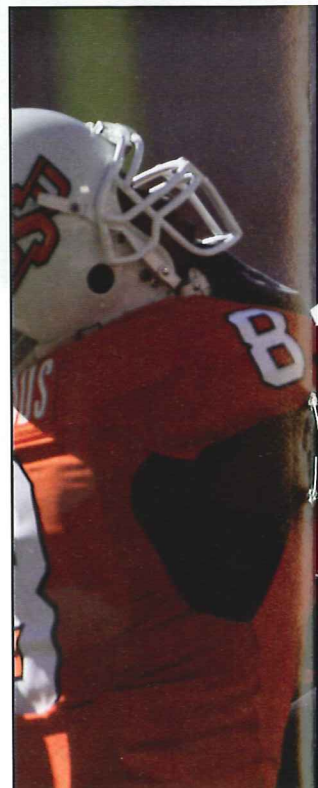
"You pick your poison," said Cornhusker defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove. "We needed to dominate up front. We needed to stay in a rhythm, and we got in that rhythm early; we were good. And then we got out of our rhythm and could never get that rhythm back."

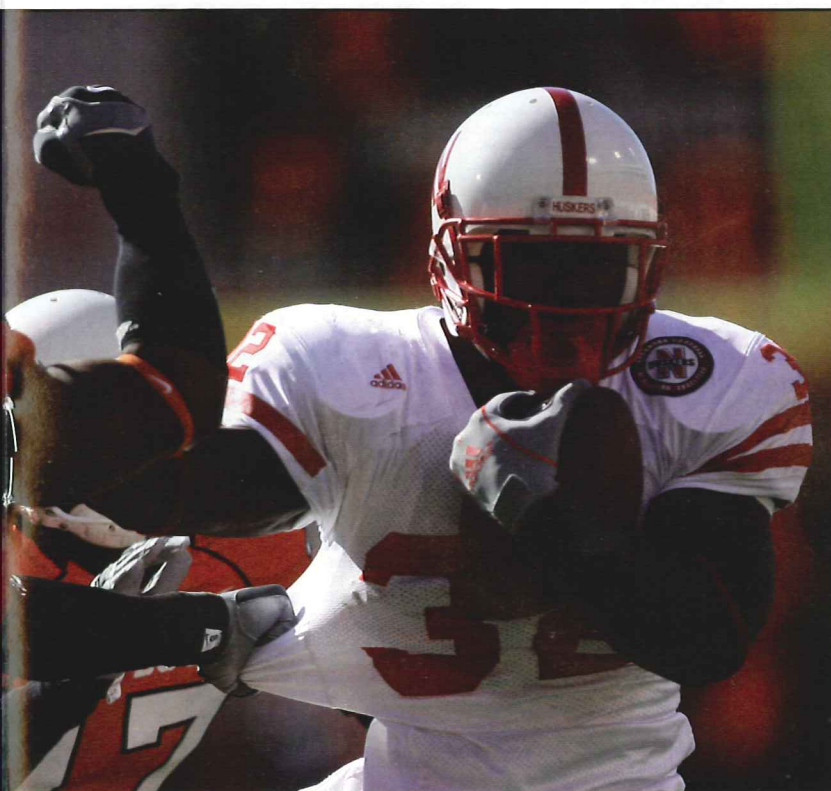
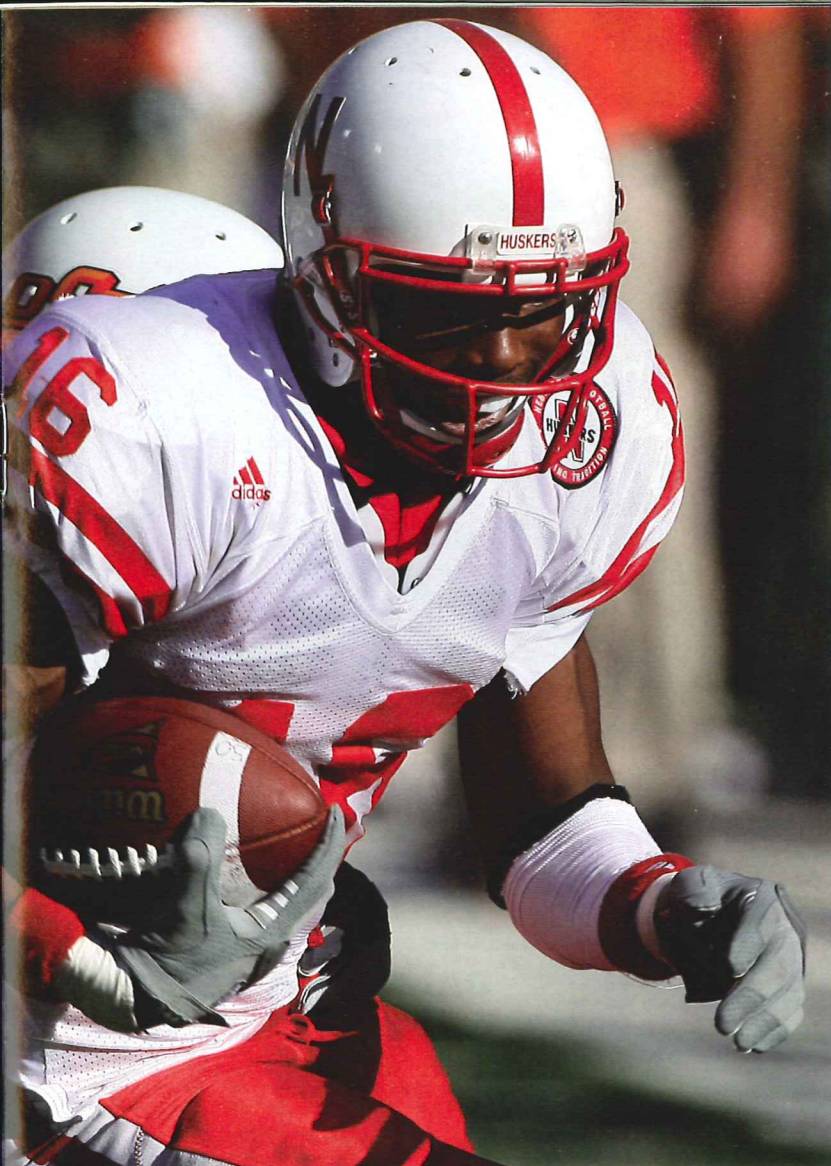
MORE RECEIVING

Junior wide receiver Terrence Nunn caught three passes for 17 yards. He has 87 career catches, six shy of second on the all-time list, and he has caught at least one pass in 22 consecutive games. Sophomore I-back Marlon Lucky caught three passes for 47 yards. He has caught a pass in every game this season. ■



Nebraska wide receiver Maurice Purify (16, above) breaks away from Oklahoma State cornerback Perrish Cox on one of his two touchdown receptions. I-back Brandon Jackson (32, below) battled OSU safety Donovan Woods. Jackson also had two touchdowns in rushing for a career-high 182 yards, 65 of which came on the opening drive and 99 in the first quarter.

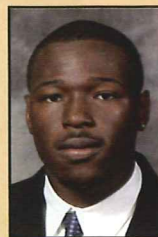




Who Stood Out?

OFFENSE

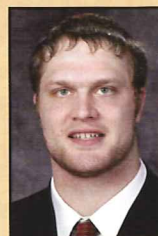
During the week, offensive coordinator Jay Norvell said Brandon Jackson had separated himself from the other I-backs and he showed why, rushing for 182 yards and two touchdowns. The loss diminished his efforts, however. "It's very frustrating," he said. However, "I just look at it as it's done and over with, and we've just got to move on." Oh yes, he also caught three passes for 24 yards, on consecutive plays in the Cornhuskers' final playing-for-pride touchdown drive.



Brandon Jackson

DEFENSE

Nebraska started strong on defense, with end Adam Carriker setting the tone. On Oklahoma State's first series, he sacked quarterback Bobby Reid for a 7-yard loss and on the second, he deflected a Reid pass, which Tierre Green intercepted. Then in the second quarter, he blocked the extra-point kick following the Cowboys' first touchdown. He finished with six tackles and three tackles for losses, including two sacks. "Give them credit," he said. "They had a good game plan. We just didn't play well."



Adam Carriker

Injury Report

Guard Greg Austin, who has battled knee problems throughout his career, had to be helped from the field early in the fourth quarter with a knee injury. Callahan said he didn't know the extent of the injury and wouldn't until an MRI. Austin was walking with crutches afterward.

The linebackers were less than 100-percent healthy. Lance Brandenburg played with a cast on his left arm because of a bone chip, while Corey McKeon and Steve Octavien both were hampered by ankle problems. Defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove said he had to "protect" McKeon and Octavien "because I didn't want to lose them for the season," while trying to "get mileage out of them."

They "will be ready to go next week," said Cosgrove.

GAME STATS

SCORING

Oct. 28, 2006
Boone Pickens Stadium Stillwater, Okla.
Attendance 40,108

	1	2	3	4	F
Nebraska	10	13	0	6	29
Oklahoma State	0	20	0	21	41

First Quarter

NU	OSU
Congdon 26-yard Field Goal 08:22	3 0
Drive: 10 plays 66 yds 4:39	

NU	OSU
Jackson 2-yard Run (Congdon Kick) 00:33	10 0
Drive: 8 plays 51 yds 4:42	

Second Quarter

NU	OSU
Jackson 24-yard Run (Wesch Rush Fumble) 10:43	16 0
Drive: 5 plays 61 yds 2:57	

OSU	NU
Toston Pass from Reid 16-yards (Ricks Kick Failed) 08:12	16 6
Drive: 5 plays 80 yds 2:31	

OSU	NU
Savage 18-yard Run (Ricks Kick) 04:13	16 13
Drive: 4 plays 50 yds 1:10	

NU	OSU
Purify Pass from Taylor 22-yards (Congdon Kick) 00:56	23 13
Drive: 7 plays 78 yds 3:17	

OSU	NU
Bowman Pass from Reid 45-yards (Ricks Kick) 00:15	23 20
Drive: 1 plays 45 yds 0:41	

Fourth Quarter

OSU	NU
Savage 20-yard Run (Ricks Kick) 14:34	23 27
Drive: 4 plays 76 yds 1:35	

OSU	NU
Crosslin 1-yard Run (Ricks Kick) 08:05	23 34
Drive: 9 plays 77 yds 3:35	

OSU	NU
Peterson 19-yard Fumble Return (Ricks Kick) 03:16	23 41

NU	OSU
Purify Pass from Taylor 5-yards (Congdon Kick Failed) 00:07	29 41
Drive: 12 plays 80 yds 3:09	

TEAM STATS

	NU	OSU
Total First Downs	29	25
Rushing	14	14
Passing	12	11
Penalty	3	0
Rushing Attempts	40	41
Yards Gained Rushing	260	289
Yards Lost Rushing	49	22
Net Yards Rushing	211	267
Net Yards Passing	241	229
Passes Attempted	39	21
Passes Completed	21	13
Had Intercepted	0	1
Percent Completion	53.8%	61.9%
Yards per Attempt	6.2	10.9
Yards per Completion	11.5	17.6
Total Offensive Plays	79	62
Total Net Yards	452	496
Avg. Gain Per Play	5.7	8.0
Fumbles: No-Lost	1-1	2-1
Penalties: No-Yards	5-40	5-42
Punts: No-Yards	5-206	3-112
Avg. Per Punt	41.2	37.3
Avg. Net Punt	40.0	28.3
Punt Returns: No-Yards	2-27	1-6
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	3-49	5-112
Interception Returns: No-Yards	1-15	0-0
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0	1-19
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	34:59	25:01
Third-Down Conversions	7-16	6-11
Percentage	43.8%	54.5%
Fourth-Down Conversions	1-1	0-1
Percentage	100.0%	0.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	2-10	5-46



NU's Lance Brandenburg (40) and Adam Carriker (bottom) wrap up OSU's Dantrell Savage.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Jackson	21	182	0	182	8.7	2	28
Lucky	9	51	9	42	4.7	0	17
Hardy	1	3	0	3	3.0	0	3
Wilson	1	3	0	3	3.0	0	3
Glenn	1	1	0	1	1.0	0	1
Taylor	7	20	40	-20	-2.9	0	15
Total	40	260	49	211	5.3	2	28

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Taylor	39	21	53.8	0	241	2	27
Total	39	21	53.8	0	241	2	27

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Purify	6	65	2	22
Hardy	3	52	0	27
Lucky	3	47	0	21
Peterson	2	28	0	15
Jackson	3	24	0	12
Nunn	3	17	0	10
Swift	1	8	0	8
Total	21	241	2	27

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Grixby	2	27	0	16
Total	2	27	0	16

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Hardy	3	49	0	22
Total	3	49	0	22

	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In	20
Titchener	5	41.2	58	0	0	1	1	1	0
Total	5	41.2	58	0	0	1	1	1	0

	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Congdon	1	2	26	0
Total	1	2	26	0

	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Shanle	8	1	9	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Carriker	5	1	6	3-16	2-10	1	0	0
Green	4	1	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Grixby	5	0	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jones	4	1	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Bradley	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0	1	1
Brandenburg	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
McKeon	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dagunduro	1	2	3	0.5-1	0-0	0	0	0
Eisenhart	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moore	1	1	2	0.5-1	0-0	1	0	0
Ruud	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Young	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cryer	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Peterson	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Potter	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Suh	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Thenarse	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Wesch	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Wilson	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

INTERCEPTION RETURNS

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Green	1	15	0	15
Total	1	15	0	15

OKLAHOMA STATE

	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Savage	17	123	6	117	6.9	2	20
Toston	8	68	0	68	8.5	0	14
Reid	8	75	14	61	7.6	0	56
Hamilton	5	18	2	16	3.2	0	8
Crosslin	2	3	0	3	1.5	1	2
Woods	1	2	0	2	2.0	0	2
Total	41	289	22	267	6.5	3	56

	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Reid	21	13	61.9	1	229	2	55
Total	21	13	61.9	1	229	2	55

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Woods	4	87	0	55
Bowman	3	86	1	45
Toston	1	16	1	16
Pettigrew	2	15	0	12
Price	1	10	0	10
Waller	1	10	0	10
Parks	1	5	0	5
Total	13	229	2	55

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Cox	1	6	0	6
Total	1	6	0	6

	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Cox	3	91	0	39
Jones	2	21	0	14
Total	5	112	0	39

	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In	20
Fodge	3	37.3	51	0	0	1	1	1	1
Total	3	37.3	51	0	0	1	1	1	1

	Solo	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Lavine	6	5	11	1-6	1-6	0	1	0
Van Zant	8	0	8	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
DeGrate	4	2	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Woods	5	1	6	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Johnson	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Nethon	4	1	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cox	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Lacey	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Peterson	4	0	4	3-26	2-21	0	0	1
McBean	2	1	3	1-11	1-11	0	0	0
Sexton	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Smith	2	1	3	1-4	0-0	0	0	0
Brown	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

2006 SEASON STATS

RUSHING

	G	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Jackson, Brandon	9	93	599	15	584	6.3	5	48	64.9
Lucky, Marlon	9	88	546	23	523	5.9	6	51	58.1
Glenn, Cody	8	65	350	5	345	5.3	6	36	43.1
Wilson, Kenny	9	69	328	15	313	4.5	3	30	34.8
Hardy, Frantz	9	3	16	2	14	4.7	0	13	1.6
Nunn, Terrence	9	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Ganz, Joe	3	2	10	12	-2	-1.0	0	10	-0.7
Taylor, Zac	9	38	86	143	-57	-1.5	1	24	-6.3

PASSING

	G	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg	YD/G
Taylor, Zac	9	231	143	61.9	3	2065	18	78	229.4
Ganz, Joe	3	12	6	50.0	0	93	2	31	31.0
Titchener, Dan	9	1	1	100.0	0	28	0	28	3.1
Lucky, Marlon	9	1	1	100.0	0	25	1	25	2.8
Wesch, Jake	6	1	1	100.0	0	17	1	17	2.8

RECEIVING

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Purify, Maurice	9	23	482	21.0	5	63	53.6
Nunn, Terrence	9	28	437	15.6	1	75	48.6
Hardy, Frantz	9	12	273	22.8	3	78	30.3
Swift, Nate	9	13	216	16.6	1	49	24.0
Jackson, Brandon	9	15	176	11.7	1	49	19.6
Lucky, Marlon	9	16	170	10.6	0	21	18.9
Peterson, Todd	9	10	153	15.3	1	31	17.0
Herian, Matt	9	12	150	12.5	2	36	16.7
Phillips, J.B.	9	12	75	6.2	2	10	8.3
Teafatiller, Hunter	8	2	46	23.0	2	29	5.8
Mueller, Josh	9	4	21	5.2	2	8	2.3
Senske, Matt	3	2	13	6.5	1	12	4.3
Todd, Dane	9	2	9	4.5	1	8	1.0
Erickson, Dan	9	1	7	7.0	0	7	0.8

PUNT RETURNS LEADERS

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Nunn, Terrence	9	18	153	8.5	0	31	17.0
Swift, Nate	9	3	50	16.7	0	33	5.6
Grixby, Courtney	9	3	36	12.0	0	16	4.0

KICKOFF RETURNS LEADERS

	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	Yd/G
Jackson, Brandon	9	5	101	20.2	0	24	11.2
Green, Tierre	9	3	59	19.7	0	23	6.6
Hardy, Frantz	9	3	49	16.3	0	22	5.4
Wilson, Kenny	9	2	42	21.0	0	27	4.7

PUNTING

	G	No	Avg	Lg	Bk	TB	FC	50+	In	20
Titchener, Dan	9	43	39.6	58	0	2	20	5	16	

FIELD GOALS

	G	Att	Made	Lg	Bkld
Congdon, Jordan	9	5	3	38	0

DEFENSE LEADERS

	G	Tack	Ass	Tot	TFL	Sack	PD	FF	FR
Bradley, Stewart	9	31	24	55	2-11	0-0	1	2	3
Green, Tierre	9	27	21	48	0-1	0-0	1	0	1
Ruud, Bo	9	24	22	46	3-18	1-10	1	2	0
Jones, Andre	9	32	13	45	0-1	0-0	6	0	0
McKeon, Corey	9	22	21	43	2-6	0-0	2	1	1
Shanle, Andrew	9	28	9	37	0-0	0-0	2	0	1
Carriker, Adam	9	15	18	33	8-30	3-17	3	0	0
Grixby, Courtney	9	25	5	30	0-0	0-0	6	1	1
Brandenburg, L	9	14	13	27	2-7	0-1	0	1	0
Moore, Jay	9	13	13	26	7-47	4-33	3	0	0
Cryer, Barry	9	12	10	22	6-30	2-18	3	1	0

TEAM STATISTICS

	NU	OPP
Total First Downs	188	163
Rushing	88	58
Passing	91	96
Penalty	9	9
Total Net Yards	3931	3058
Total Plays	610	580
Yards Per Play	6.4	5.3
Yards Per Game	436.8	339.8
Rushing Attempts-Yards	364-1703	283-1083
Yards Per Attempt	4.7	3.8
Yards Per Game	189.2	120.3
Pass Att.-Comp.-Int.	246-152-3	297-159-9
Passing Yards	2228	1975
Yards Per Completion	14.7	12.4
Yards Per Game	247.6	219.4
Punting: No.-Avg.	43-39.6	53-40.0
Fumbles-Lost	17-10	26-10
Penalties-Yards	47-413	54-386
Sacks By-Yds. Lost	17-133	20-155
Third-Down Conversions	56-123	42-125
Conversion Pct.	45.5	33.6
Fourth-Down Conversions	9-12	6-16
Conversion Pct.	75.0	37.5
Avg. Time Of Possession	32:29	27:31

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Nebraska	86	83	42	90	7	308
Opponents	10	67	19	61	0	157

2006 RESULTS, SCHEDULE

1 Sept. 2	Louisiana Tech (2-6), W 49-10	1-0
2 Sept. 9	Nicholls State (3-5), W 56-7	2-0
3 Sept. 16	@USC (6-1), L 28-10	2-1
4 Sept. 23	Troy (3-4), W 56-0	3-1
5 Sept. 30	Kansas (4-5), W 39-32 (OT)	4-1
6 Oct. 7	@Iowa State (3-6), W 28-14	5-1
7 Oct. 14	@Kansas State (5-4), W 21-3	6-1
8 Oct. 21	Texas (8-1), L 22-20	6-2
9 Oct. 28	@Oklahoma State (5-3), L 41-29	6-3
10 Nov. 4	Missouri (7-2), 11 a.m., ABC	
11 Nov. 11	@Texas A&M (8-1), TBA	
12 Nov. 24	Colorado (1-8), 2:30 p.m., ABC	
Dec. 2	Big 12 Championship at Kansas City, Mo., 7 p.m., ABC	

SCOUTING REPORT

GAME 10

Missouri Nov. 4

Location: Columbia, Mo.

Enrollment: 27,088

2006 record: 7-2

Coch: Gary Pinkel, sixth year

Series: Nebraska leads 62-34-3

11 a.m. (CST), ABC
Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.

Quick Facts

Missouri was plagued by mistakes, as Oklahoma took advantage of three turnovers, a blocked punt and a roughing-the-kicker penalty to knock off the Tigers 26-10 in Columbia.

Tight end Chase Coffman has 40

catches this season, which ranks third among tight ends in school history.

Martin Rucker, the other tight end, has 98 career catches, No. 2 at MU.

Jeff Wolfert kicked a 39-yard field goal against OU, giving him eight straight. He is 11-for-13 this season.

Tiger to Watch

Sophomore quarterback Chase Daniel has passed for 2,283 yards (19 touchdowns) this season, which places him fifth in school history. His total offense of 2,609 yards this year also ranks fifth in MU history. All four places ahead of him are held by Brad Smith. Daniel has rushed for 322 yards and four touchdowns.



BIG 12 AT A GLANCE

	North					South			
	W	L	W	L		W	L	W	L
Missouri	3	2	7	2	Texas	5	0	8	1
Nebraska	3	2	6	3	Texas A&M	4	1	8	1
Kansas St.	2	3	5	4	Oklahoma	3	1	6	2
Kansas	1	4	4	5	Baylor	3	2	4	5
Colorado	1	4	1	8	Okl. St.	2	2	5	3
Iowa State	0	5	3	6	Texas Tech	2	3	5	4

Saturday, Oct. 28

Oklahoma State 41, Nebraska 29
Oklahoma 26, Missouri 10
Texas A&M 31, Baylor 21
Kansas 20, Colorado 15
Kansas State 31, Iowa State 10
Texas 35, Texas Tech 31

ON DECK

At Texas A&M Nov. 11

Location: College Station, Texas

Enrollment: 46,587

2006 record: 8-1

Coch: Dennis Franchione, fourth year
Series: Nebraska leads 9-2-0

Time TBA

Kyle Field, College Station, Texas



TENTATIVE 2-DEEPS

NEBRASKA OFFENSE

WRX	87	Nate Swift*	6-2	195	So.
	7	Frantz Hardy*	6-1	180	Jr.
LT	54	Chris Patrick*	6-4	290	Jr.
	76	Lydon Murtha*	6-7	315	So.
LG	65	Greg Austin***	6-1	295	Sr.
	62	Andy Christensen	6-3	300	So.
C	59	Brett Byford	6-3	300	Jr.
	50	Kurt Mann**	6-4	290	Sr.
RG	61	Mike Huff*	6-4	305	So.
	67	Jacob Hickman	6-4	280	Fr.
RT	70	Matt Slauson*	6-5	335	So.
	77	Carl Nicks	6-5	325	Jr.
TE	11	Matt Herian***	6-5	245	Sr.
	81	Josh Mueller**	6-5	285	Jr.
WRZ	83	Terrence Nunn**	6-0	185	Jr.
	17	Todd Peterson*	6-4	210	So.
QB	13	Zac Taylor*	6-2	210	So.
	8	Joe Ganz	6-1	200	So.
FB	41	Dane Todd***	5-11	235	Sr.
	42	Matt Senske	6-3	235	Jr.
IB	32	Brandon Jackson**	5-11	210	Jr.
	20	Marlon Lucky*	6-0	210	So.
PK	29	Jordan Congdon*	5-11	175	So.

NEBRASKA DEFENSE

DE	44	Jay Moore*	6-4	280	Sr.
	99	Barry Turner*	6-3	250	So.
NT	54	Ola Dagunduro*	6-2	300	Sr.
	93	Ndamukong Suh	6-4	315	So.
DT	94	Barry Cryer*	6-2	280	Sr.
	43	Ty Steinkuhler*	6-3	280	So.
DE	90	Adam Carriker***	6-6	295	Sr.
	98	Zach Potter*	6-7	280	So.
SLB	34	Stewart Bradley***	6-4	245	Sr.
	88	Clayton Sievers*	6-4	240	So.
MLB	13	Corey McKeon*	6-1	225	Jr.
	40	Lance Brandenburg**	6-1	230	Jr.
WLB	51	Bo Ruud**	6-3	235	Jr.
	15	Steve Octavien	6-0	235	Jr.
SCB	25	Andre Jones	6-0	195	Jr.
	4	Rickey Thenarse	6-0	185	Fr.
SS	30	Tierre Green**	6-1	200	Jr.
	6	Major Culbert	6-0	200	Fr.
FS	8	Andrew Shanle***	6-1	210	Sr.
	9	Bryan Wilson	6-1	200	Jr.
WCB	2	Cortney Grixby**	5-9	170	Jr.
	23	Corey Young	6-0	195	Fr.
P	97	Dan Titchener	6-0	200	So.

MISSOURI OFFENSE

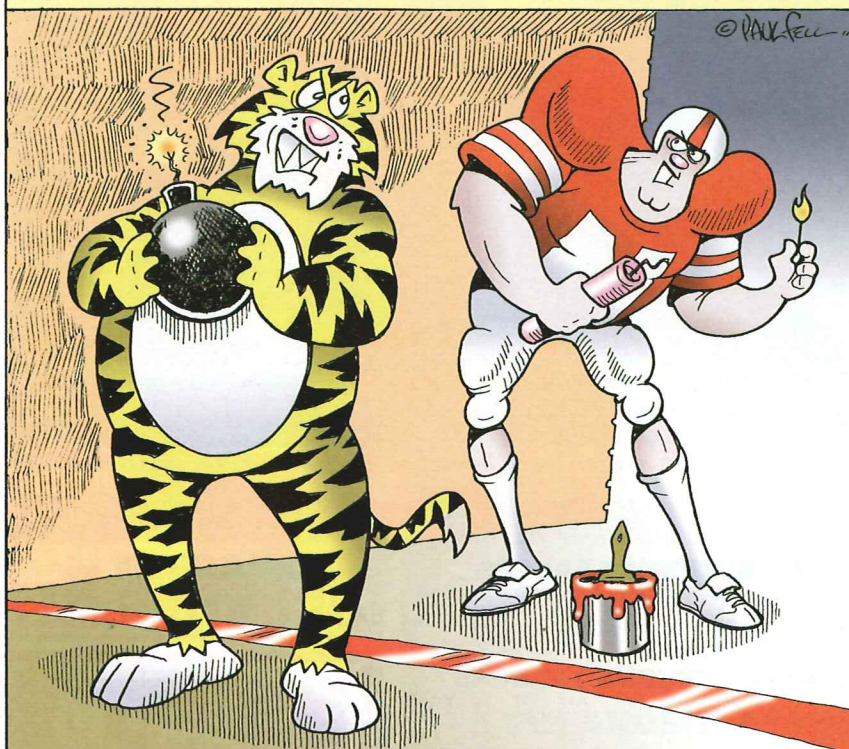
WR	84	Tommy Saunders*	6-0	205	So.
	4	Jason Ray**	6-1	215	Jr.
LT	79	Tyler Luellen**	6-7	300	Jr.
	78	Kurtis Gregory	6-5	305	RFr.
LG	71	Monte Wyrick*	6-5	320	Jr.
	55	Mike Cook**	6-3	315	Sr.
C	77	Adam Spieker**	6-3	310	Jr.
	51	James Stigall	6-3	305	RFr.
RG	76	Ryan Madison	6-5	300	So.
	61	Colin Brown*	6-8	315	So.
RT	74	Joel Clinger**	6-6	310	Sr.
	68	Dain Wise	6-5	290	RFr.
TE	82	Martin Rucker**	6-5	245	Jr.
	45	Chase Coffman*	6-6	235	So.
WR	86	Brad Ekwerekwu***	6-4	215	Sr.
	81	Danario Alexander	6-3	190	Fr.
WR	3	William Franklin**	6-1	210	Jr.
	8	Jared Perry	6-0	170	Fr.
QB	10	Chase Daniel*	6-1	220	So.
	11	Brandon Coleman*	6-3	215	Sr.
TB	22	Tony Temple**	5-10	190	Jr.
	1	Jimmy Jackson*	5-9	200	So.
PK	99	Jeff Wolfert	6-2	190	So.

MISSOURI DEFENSE

DE	48	Xzavie Jackson**	6-4	275	Sr.
	63	Tommy Chavis	6-2	285	So.
DT	94	Evander Hood*	6-3	285	So.
	92	Jamar Smith*	6-1	290	So.
NT	99	Lorenzo Williams**	6-1	290	Jr.
	96	Jason Baston	6-1	290	RFr.
DE	38	Stryker Sulak*	6-5	245	So.
	58	DeMarcus Scott	6-1	290	Sr.
LB	15	Marcus Bacon***	6-2	225	Sr.
	5	Van Alexander*	6-0	235	So.
LB	34	Brock Christopher*	6-2	240	So.
	18	Steve Redmond	6-0	235	So.
LB	33	Dedrick Harrington***	6-3	245	Sr.
	12	Sean Weatherspoon	6-2	210	Fr.
CB	28	Hardy Ricks	6-11	195	RFr.
	17	Del Howard	6-11	180	Fr.
S	21	William Moore*	6-2	215	So.
	13	Cornelius Brown	6-0	200	Jr.
S	8	David Overstreet***	6-0	210	Sr.
	19	Brandon Massey**	6-1	200	Sr.
CB	3	Darnell Terrell	6-2	200	Jr.
	6	Paul Simpson	6-2	185	Jr.
P	90	Adam Crossett**	6-3	230	Jr.

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NEBRASKA vs. MISSOURI



NOVEMBER 4, 2006

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Nov. 4



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G.I. Independent



Sean Callahan
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Jason VanArkel
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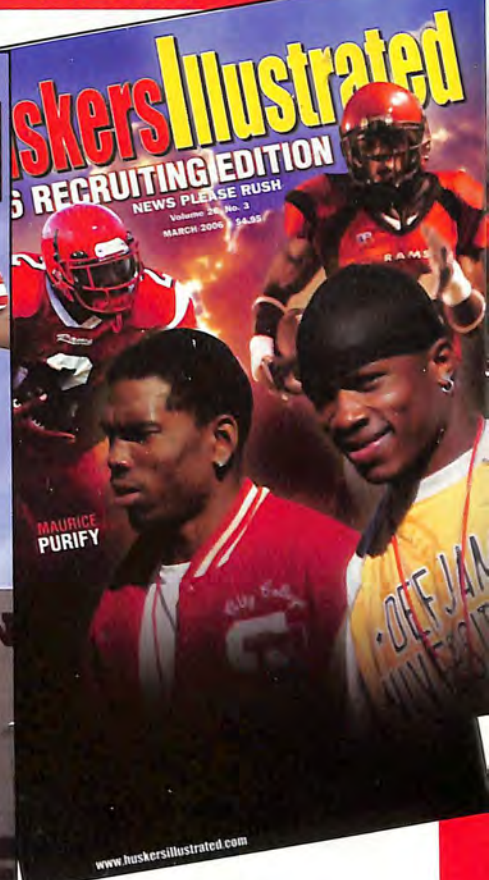
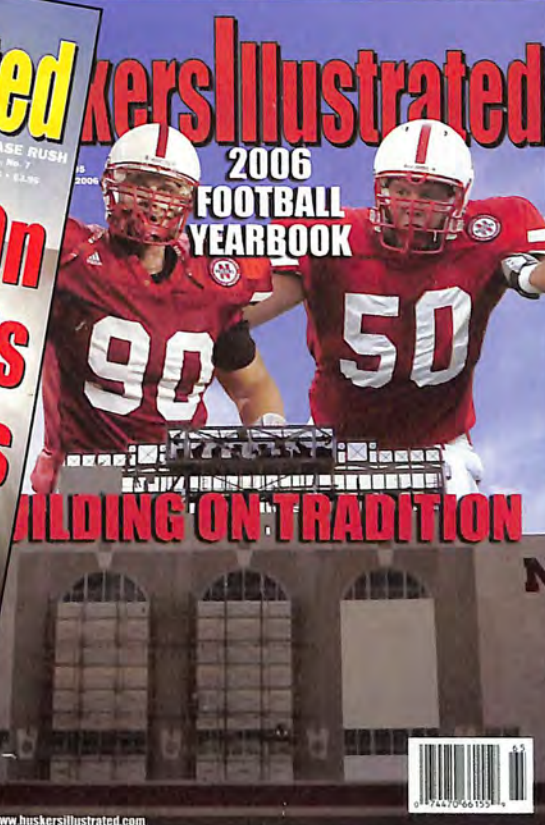
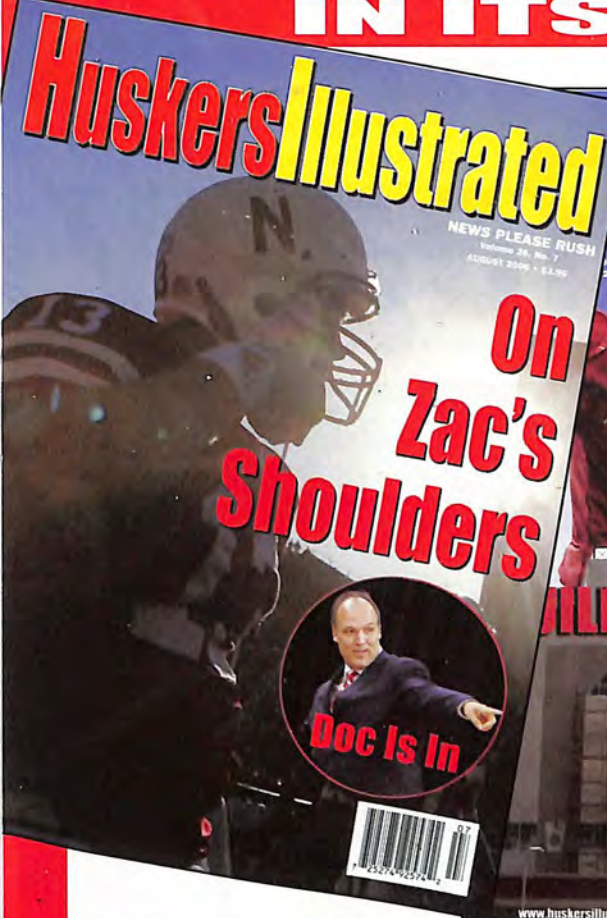
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... All The Time

Safety in Numbers

Nebraska still looking to add depth in secondary

By Rick Shaw



DeAndre West



Eain Smith

ing a commitment from California safety, DeAndre West, in mid-May. The 6-foot-1, 190-pound player out of Oakland (Wilson Prep), Calif., is ranked the No. 45 prospect in the state by Rival.com.

West, described as an extremely physical player by his head coach, Desmond Gumbs, averaged seven yards per carry as a running back in 2005. Though he rushed for more than 1,500 yards, his skills on the defensive side of the ball (100 tackles, six sacks) are what grabbed the attention of a number of major college coaches.

The California blue-chipper chose Nebraska over offers from Arizona, Colorado, Boise State and others. Though he's already pledged his commitment to Nebraska, the Huskers will likely try to sign at least two more prospects at the safety positions in February.

Heading into the 2006 season, the Nebraska coaches felt reasonably good about their starters at the safety positions.

Tierre Green and Andrew Shanle were not only two of the fastest athletes on the Husker squad, they also already had a great deal of playing experience for the Nebraska defense.

Behind them was a lack of proven talent at safety. Newcomers Ricky Thenarse, Major Culbert and Corey Young came onto the scene last summer and showed the ability to become difference makers in the future.

Despite that young talent, however, it was clear that the NU needed to further bolster its numbers in the safety ranks by signing a few more prospects in its 2007 recruiting class.

The Huskers scored big early, earn-

NEBRASKA COMMITMENTS FOR 2007

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	40	Hometown (School)
Anthony Blue	DB	5-10	172	4.57	Cedar Hill, Texas
Quentin Castille	RB	6-1	234	4.6	La Porte, Texas
Jared Crick	DE	6-6	245	4.8	Cozad, Neb.
Demetrious Davis	DT	6-2	286	5.22	St. Joseph, Mo. (Benton)
Jared Glover	DE	6-5	220	4.75	Bixby, Okla.
Patrick Grant	DE	6-4	220	4.51	Lauderdale Lakes, Fla. (Boyd Anderson)
Ian Harris	TE	6-3	217	4.76	San Antonio, Texas (Churchill)
Roy Helu	RB	5-11	206	4.62	Danville, Calif. (San Ramon Valley)
Ryan Hill	TE	6-3	230	4.7	Arvada, Colo. (West)
Blake Lawrence	LB	6-2	199	4.65	Overland Park, Kan. (Shawnee Mission West)
Niles Paul	WR	6-2	210	4.4	Omaha, Neb. (North)
Shawn Sullivan	DB	5-11	182	4.4	Brenham, Texas
DeAndre West	DB	6-1	195	4.4	Oakland, Calif. (Wilson Prep)
Patrick Witt	QB	6-4	215	4.95	Wylie, Texas

For more daily recruiting information, visit HuskersIllustrated.com, a member of the Rivals.com network.

One player who already has visited the Lincoln campus this fall and is seriously considering a Husker offer, is Eain Smith. The 5-11, 177-pound athlete out of Hollywood (Chaminade-Madonna), Fla., was on hand to watch Nebraska's overtime win against Kansas in late September. He came away from the experience giving Nebraska very high marks.

"It was a '10' on a 1-10 scale," Smith said. "Those Nebraska fans are the best. Just like they say, those fans have to be the best in college football. At one point, they screamed out my name and asked me to sign autographs just like they knew me or something. I mean, I was shocked."

"Nebraska's right at the top of my list right now, but I want to visit a few other schools before making a decision."

Smith, rated the No. 49 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com, holds more than 20 scholarship offers from Division I programs. However, he has stated that the Huskers, along with Pittsburgh, West Virginia and South Carolina currently top his list.

Smith, who boasts a 4.5-second 40-yard dash and a 33-inch vertical leap, is also an accomplished high jumper and basketball player for Chaminade-Madonna. As a junior on the football field, he helped his team to a Class 2A state championship.

Travis Lewis of San Antonio (Lee), Texas, is another athletic safety looking hard at going to school in Lincoln. The 6-1, 213-pound athlete took an official visit to Nebraska to



Travis Lewis

watch the Huskers take on Texas. He said his time in Lincoln will be tough for other schools to match.

"The visit exceeded my expectations," Lewis said. "It was awesome. I loved everything about it."

"I had Nebraska fans screaming my name. They were saying 'Travis, we need you.' That was probably what was most impressive of anything was the fans there. The players, the coaches and the fans all treat you good. They love their football in Lincoln."

Lewis, rated the No. 46 prospect in the state by Rivals.com, holds offers from a host of Division I programs,

RECRUITING NOTES

Florida Player Likes Defense

By Sean Stevens

The oral commitment list for Nebraska Cornhuskers continues to grow. After the close loss to Texas, they added 6-foot-4, 220-pound defensive end Patrick Grant of Lauderdale Lakes, Fla., to the mix.

"The defense is just for me," said the No. 94 player in the Rivals.com Florida Top 100. "It is a fast tempo defense and fast to the ball. It is just perfect."

Grant becomes the third high school defensive end to give the Huskers his pledge, joining Jared Crick of Cozad, Neb., and Jared Glover of Bixby, Okla. With his 4.51-second speed in the 40-yard dash, a move to playing outside linebacker might be in the works once he gets to Lincoln.

● The game with the Longhorns also gave the Huskers an opportunity to impress recruits from the Lone Star State. Along with the high school players watching on television, there were a number on hand to witness the contest first-hand. Among the players on hand were 6-3, 220-pound defensive end Brandon Joiner of Killeen, 6-0, 220-pound outside linebacker Jermaine Love of North Garland and his teammate 6-0, 163-pound wide receiver Hubert Anyiam.

Joiner was "amazed" by his trip.

"Nebraska was amazing," he said. "The fans were amazing, the facilities were amazing, the school was amazing, the game was amazing, and the coaches were amazing. The fans know who you are before you even get there. I had several kids and, even, a few grown men ask me for my autograph. There were no negatives whatsoever."

Joiner holds 23 scholarship offers from Division I programs. He rated his visit a "9" or "10," compared to an "8" for his previous visit to Arizona State and will visit Purdue next.

Love and Anyiam also were in awe of the Husker fan base. Nebraska fans did something that really stood out to them.

"A couple of them had the newspaper that had Hubert's picture in it from last week's (North Garland) game when he scored three touchdowns, and they had him autograph his picture," Love said.

The pair previously had visited Big 12 rival Kansas State. Love noted the differences in their two trips.

"The Nebraska fans are just more into the game and everything," he said. "It's just crazier there than at Kansas State."

"But probably the main thing I liked besides the fans, though, is the history, the tradition and the way the players play together and are all real close."

Love also gave his breakdown on the three Texas visitors.

"Oh man, I'd give it a 10+, and Hubert says he'd give a 10+," Love said. "He loves it there. He likes Lincoln so well I thought he was home."

"In fact, don't be surprised if Hubert commits — that's how much he likes it. What he's going to do is go home and talk to his mom and see what she thinks, but don't be surprised if both he and Brandon Joiner commit before too much longer."

What about Love?

"I'm definitely excited, too," he said. "I could see myself playing there and laying the wood. Texas better look out because Nebraska's definitely a team on the way up." ■



Patrick Grant

including Nebraska, Oklahoma, Arizona State, Missouri, Oklahoma State, Purdue and others. However, the blue-chip athlete from the Lone Star State said his recruitment has pretty much turned into a two-team battle between the Huskers and the Sooners. He said he plans to take a visit to Oklahoma before finalizing his college decision.

Lewis ran a blazing fast 4.34-second 40-yard dash at the NIKE Combine last summer. He's also a gifted athlete on the offensive side of the ball, rushing for 1,000 yards in his first five games of his senior campaign. However, it's as a defensive player where he'll likely make his mark in college.

Another safety prospect in Texas, 6-0, 195-pound speedster (4.4 40) Victor Reynolds, is also looking hard at Nebraska. In fact, he says that the Huskers are the team to beat for his college services.

"It's Nebraska, and then Missouri, and then Iowa," Reynolds said. "That's probably my top three right now."



Latravis Washington

"I love Nebraska. It's a great program, and it would be a huge honor to represent them in football and track if that's the way it works out."

Reynolds moved from Wisconsin this past summer, where he was rated one of the top four players in that state by Rivals.com. As a junior, he rushed for more than

1,000 yards as a running back while also tallying six interceptions as a defensive back.

In addition to Nebraska, the talented athlete from Texas has picked up scholarship offers from Illinois, Minnesota, Tulsa, Northwestern, Oklahoma, Tulsa, Missouri and Iowa.

Another safety prospect holding Nebraska in the lead is Latravis Washington of Bradenton (Bayshore), Fla. The 6-3, 210-pound cousin of former Husker standout Fabian Washington admits that it's probably just a matter of time before he dons the colors of Nebraska.

"At Nebraska, you get to go to school and play ball," Washington

said. "That's what I like . . . no distractions. I also love the city of Lincoln. It's not like the state of Florida, where every person roots for a different team. Everybody in Nebraska loves the Cornhuskers."

"I have offers from West Virginia, Louisville, North Carolina State, Auburn, Alabama, Ohio State, Illinois and others, but, like I tell everyone that I talk to, those schools have nothing on 'The Corn' (Nebraska)."

Washington, rated the No. 77 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com, is being recruited by some schools as a quarterback. As a junior, he rushed for 800 yards and passed for another 700 yards. It's as a defensive back, however, where Washington (who already has three interceptions this fall) will likely flourish in college.

Washington will take his official visit to Lincoln on Nov. 3 to watch the Huskers take on Missouri.

With West already committed and a slew of other talented young players already in the program, the future looks bright for the Nebraska secondary. ■

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9-9 Nichols St.
9-23 Troy
9-30 Kansas
10-21 Texas
11-4 Missouri
11-24 C.U.

AWAY GAMES

9-16 USC
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10-14 Kansas St.
10-28 Oklahoma St.
11-11 Texas A&M

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... Even If It's Not

Setter Griffin willing to do 'whatever is best for this team'

By Todd Henrichs

Taking a step back is difficult for anyone, especially for someone as competitive as Maggie Griffin. In her first two years as a collegiate setter, Griffin started every match, first as a freshman at Michigan State and then as a sophomore at Nebraska, where the Illinois native helped to lead the Huskers to within one win of last season's national championship.

Being able to play — and win — is a big reason why Griffin chose to transfer to Nebraska in the first place. She was upset by the firing of longtime coach Chuck Erbe following her freshman season. After all, it was Erbe's reputation as a tremendous tutor of setters that first attracted her to Michigan State.

Nebraska was the perfect fit, what with Michelle Lynch having to give up volleyball due to chronic back issues. Griffin fit right in, that is until Christina Houghtelling needed offseason surgery and the Huskers suddenly had to ditch plans to again utilize a two-setter system this season.

After what amounted to a three-week tryout in preseason drills, redshirt freshman Rachel Holloway won the starting spot, and Griffin — Holloway's roommate — had to adjust to life on the bench for the first time in her college career.

"It's not easy. It's not easy at all," Griffin said. "Obviously, it's hard being on the sideline and watching every game.

"But I love these girls and I love this team, so whatever is best for this team — even if it's not easy to swallow — is what's best for me."

A third Nebraska setter, four-year starter Dani Busboom, shifted to libero this season. It was a move that Busboom, too, first agonized over as a demotion of sorts. Yet, that change has worked out well as Busboom has proven to be a capable defensive specialist for a Nebraska team suddenly respected for its floor defense.

Holloway, too, has met the challenge. A veteran of U.S. age-group national teams, Holloway led Nebraska unscathed through the nonconference schedule and a treacherous first half of Big 12 Conference play in which the Huskers had to travel to challengers Oklahoma, Missouri and Texas.

In fact, it was Holloway who delivered a key kill in

Junior Maggie Griffin is in her second season in the Husker program after transferring from Michigan State.



Scott Bruhn

Easy To Swallow



game five against the Longhorns, bravely dumping a shot with the score knotted at 11-11. Head coach John Cook said "living on the edge" is something you have to get used to with Holloway, who ultimately won the job not necessarily for her flair, but because statistically she was putting more hittable balls into the wheelhouse of NU's attackers.

"I don't think there's a whole lot of difference between the two," Cook said. "Rachel does some more athletic things, but Maggie has a great understanding."

"She's similar to Zac Taylor in that she really knows the game."

Cook has looked for opportunities to get Griffin some playing time this season, but only when time allows her to fully prepare for the match with Nebraska's top unit.

Griffin played the entire match against Texas Tech in Lincoln, directing an attack that hit .317 even with Kori Cooper making her first start at middle block. Griffin started the next day at Creighton, but was replaced by Holloway after the Bluejays took the first game.

"I haven't been that nervous in a while," admitted Griffin, who hadn't run a one-setter system since her days at Michigan State. "I was very nervous, but once you get out there, it's kind of like riding a bike. You just forget about everything else."

Griffin has also seen action as a serving specialist, and likely will get at least another opportunity to set during the second half of the season. As for next year, Cook has indicated that he'll consider returning to a two-setter system once Houghtelling returns to the lineup.

Until then, however, Griffin must be content with directing the "B" side in what amount to match-like drills in practice. That's her role now, she says, although it's hard not to yearn to be on the court when the lights go on and the fans cheer.

Especially Nebraska's fans, who recognize the sacrifice Griffin has had to make every time that she takes the court.

"It helps a lot when they welcome me like that," Griffin said. "It would be a lot harder without them." ■

Todd Henrichs covers the Nebraska volleyball team for the Lincoln Journal Star. He can be reached at 473-7439 or thenrichs@journalstar.com

RESULTS, SCHEDULE

Aug. 29 San Diego W 3-0

Labor Day Tournament At Lincoln, Neb.

Sept. 1 St. Mary's W 3-0
Sept. 2 Middle Tennessee St. W 3-0
Sept. 3 Long Beach State W 3-0

Players Challenge At Lincoln, Neb.

Sept. 8 Louisville W 3-0
Sept. 9 Cal Poly W 3-0
Sept. 10 Minnesota W 3-1

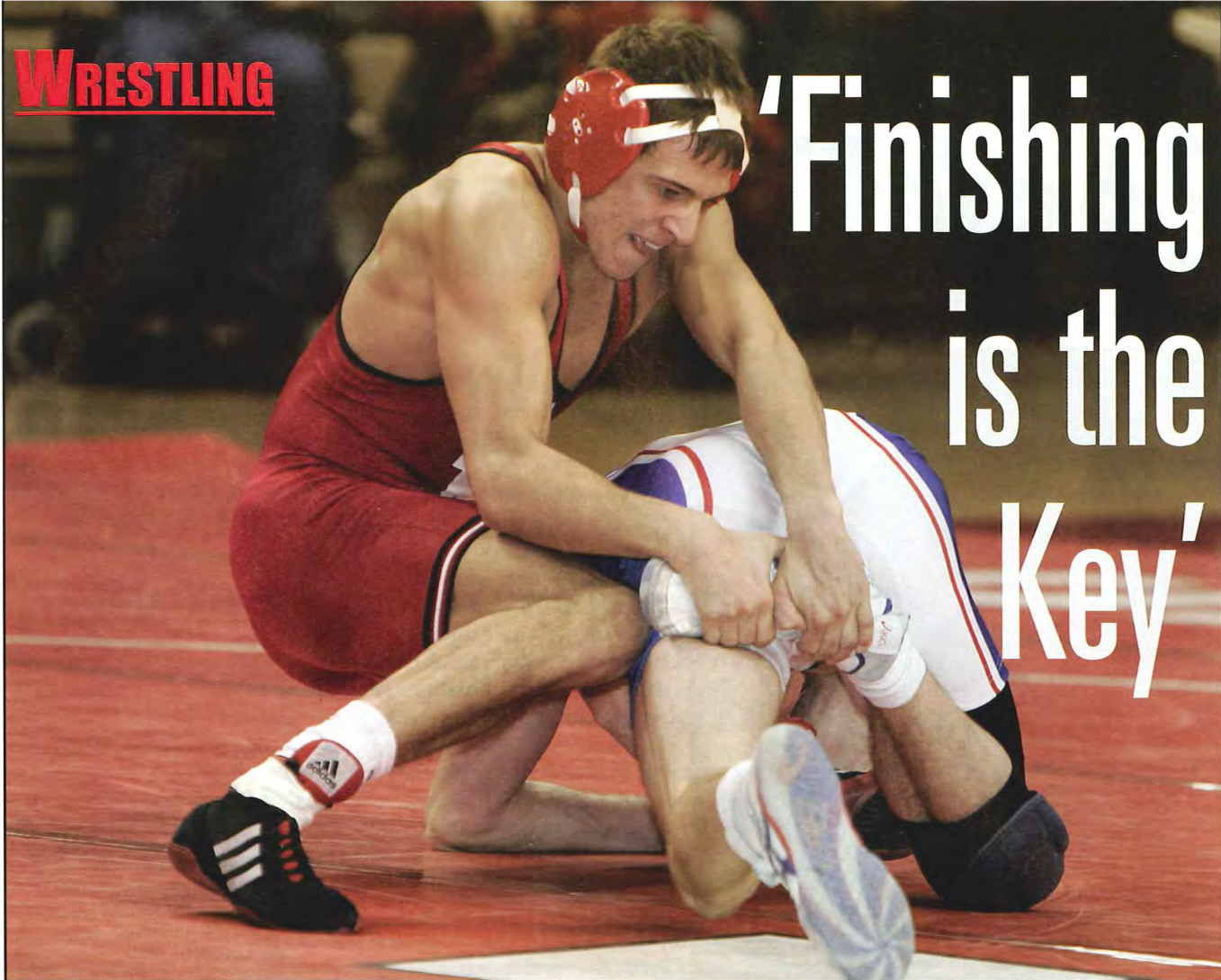
Sept. 13 Kansas W 3-0
Sept. 16 @Oklahoma W 3-0
Sept. 20 Iowa State W 3-0
Sept. 23 Texas Tech W 3-0
Sept. 24 @Creighton W 3-1
Sept. 30 @Baylor W 3-1
Oct. 4 Kansas State W 3-0
Oct. 7 @Texas A&M W 3-0
Oct. 11 @Missouri W 3-0
Oct. 14 Colorado W 3-0
Oct. 18 @Texas W 3-2
Oct. 25 Missouri W 3-0
Oct. 28 @Kansas State 7 p.m.
Nov. 1 @Texas Tech 7 p.m.
Nov. 4 Oklahoma TBA
Nov. 8 @Iowa State 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 11 @Colorado 8 p.m.
Nov. 15 Texas A&M 7 p.m.
Nov. 18 Baylor 7 p.m.
Nov. 22 @Kansas 7 p.m.
Nov. 25 Texas 7 p.m.

Nov. 30-Dec. 3 NCAA First/Second Rounds At Campus Sites

Dec. 8-9 NCAA Regionals At Campus Sites

Dec 14-16 NCAA Final Four At Qwest Center (Omaha, Neb.)

'Finishing is the Key'



Scott Brum

Nebraska's Paul Donahoe went 2-2 at the NCAA Championships last year as a redshirt freshman.

Wrestler Donahoe knows that you might only get one shot

By KATELYN KERKHOVE

Mark Manning is daring Paul Donahoe to be great this year.

After Donahoe went 2-2 in the NCAA Championships last year, Manning, Nebraska's wrestling coach, believes Donahoe is capable of much more.

But for Donahoe to improve, Manning said, he is challenging the sophomore to focus on the details of his sport and become a young leader of the Cornhusker squad.

During the 2006 season, the 125-pound Donahoe entered the NCAA Tournament seeded 10th and made it to the quarterfinals before losing two matches, the first 5-0 to Oklahoma's Sam Hazewinkel and the second 8-3 to Oklahoma State's Coleman Scott.

"Paul went into the tournament to be a national champion, and that's the right approach," Manning said. "But some of the small details at (the collegiate) level we need to get better at, and those might have caught up to him at the NCAA Tournament. He needs to make sure he capitalizes

on other people's mistakes, and he needs to not make the mistakes he was making."

But any mistakes he made last year will not happen this season, Donahoe said.

To the Davison, Mich., native, when it comes to stepping on the mat, there is no luck involved, and the only outcome he is willing to accept is the one that includes winning.

After all, losing is simply not an option.

"I hate losing so much so that goes through my head (before I compete)," Donahoe said. "And someone has to pay for how hard I've been working, so I might as well take it out on another guy."

The Husker wrestlers' first competition will be the intrasquad wrestle-offs on Nov. 3. Prior to the wrestle-offs, the Huskers have continued with their off-season workouts and practices.

So far, Donahoe said, he has been able to put on a little more muscle and tackle some of his fundamental problems.

Although he advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament after earning a takedown with 27 seconds to go in his 4-2 victory against Jeremy Mendoza of Arizona State, he said he still has to work on finishing out his matches. "When you are in college wrestling, you might only get on a guy's legs one time, and you have to finish it because it might be your only shot," Donahoe said. "Anybody can take down, but finishing is the key."

Working with a former world champion (at 55kg in freestyle), Nebraska volunteer assistant coach Sammie Henson, Donahoe said his main focus has been positioning

and intensity.

With Henson's experience — he earned a silver medal at the 2000 Olympics and a gold medal at the 1998 World Championships — the chances of some improvement in Donahoe's technical skills over the next few weeks are good.

Of the things he struggled with last year, Donahoe said that positioning wasn't necessarily the biggest, but it is always something a wrestler should work to improve upon.

As for intensity, Manning said Donahoe already possesses this important attribute, but he can still work on his maturity as a competitor because that will help him improve on the mental side of the sport.

"I don't care what sport it is, football, basketball, wrestling, the more mature young men and women are, the more they can handle pressure situations better," Manning said. "They understand how important the details of things are, and they do better. They're successful. Paul has some areas where he has to keep improving."

Off the mat, Donahoe considers himself a fairly laid-back, fun-loving guy, and Manning said he would agree. But the six-year head coach wants Donahoe to use these traits to

develop his leadership skills.

With only three upperclassman on the roster, two seniors and a junior, Donahoe will be looked upon to point the young Huskers in the right direction.

Manning said it is Donahoe's success that has put the sophomore in this position so early in his career as his teammates will look up to him no matter what.

After leading Nebraska with a 26-9 record, tying for second on the team with 12 dual wins and placing third at the Big 12 Conference Championships, taking on the responsibility as a team leader is evident.

"My challenge to Paul is to become a better leader," Manning said. "He understands the concept that when you help other people, you help yourself. For our team and our program, we need young men to step forward like I'm asking Paul to. But when you are our leader, you have to do everything right because other people are following you."

With both coach and athlete hoping to improve on last year's successes, Donahoe said he has only one goal in mind: getting to the NCAA finals. And he'll do whatever it takes to get there.

"Paul had a really good year last year, and he beat a lot of good guys,"

Manning said. "He was just a hair lash from being an All-American last year, but he'll be stronger because of that. He just has to take it to another level."

SCHEDULE

Nov. 3 — Wrestle-offs, Devaney Sports Center

Nov. 11 — Cowboy Open, at Laramie, Wyo.

Nov. 18 — Kaufman-Brand Open, at Omaha, Neb.

Nov. 24 — at Virginia Tech

Nov. 25 — at Maryland

Dec. 1-2 — Las Vegas Invitational, at Primm, Nev.

Dec. 9 — South Dakota State, Northern Colorado

Dec. 16 — Wyoming, Nebraska-Kearney

Jan. 5 — Oregon State

Jan. 13-14 — National Duals, at Cedar Falls, Iowa

Jan. 20 — Iowa State

Jan. 28 — at Missouri

Feb. 1 — Oklahoma State

Feb. 9 — at Oklahoma

Feb. 11 — Minnesota

Feb. 16 — at Lehigh

Feb. 17 — Drexel, Penn, at Philadelphia, Pa.

March 3 — Big 12 Championships, at Columbia, Mo.

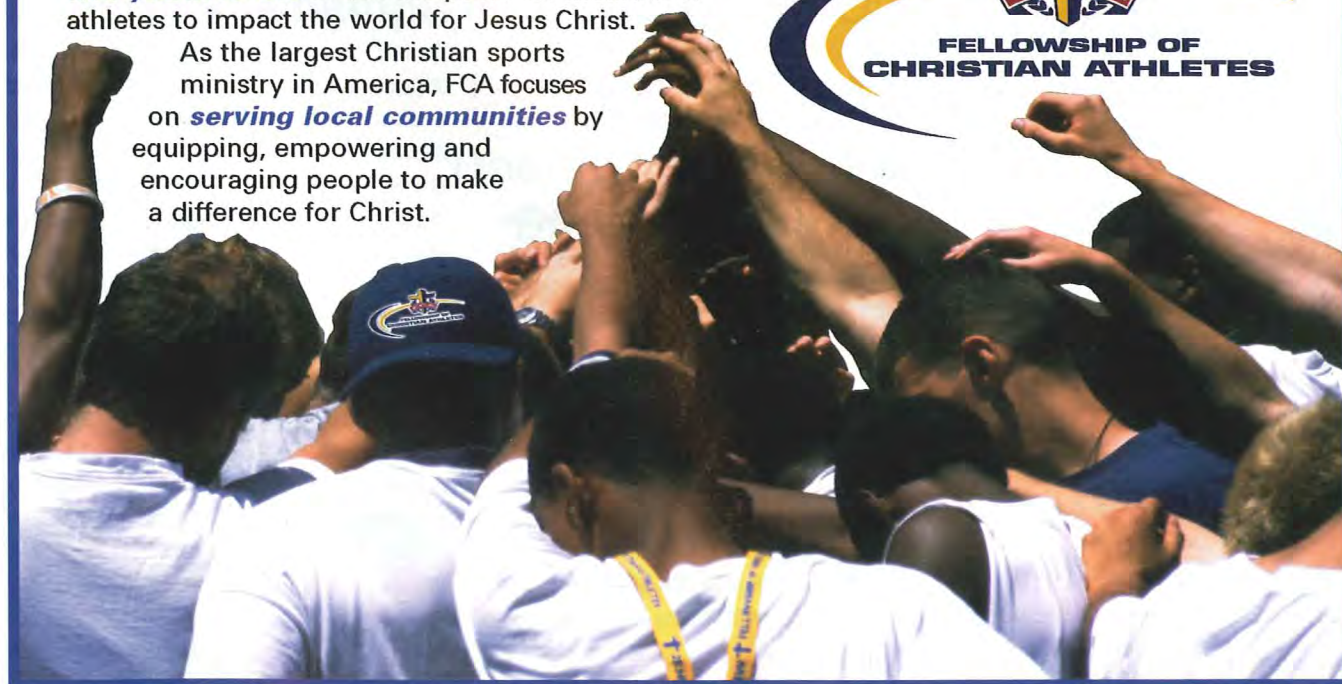
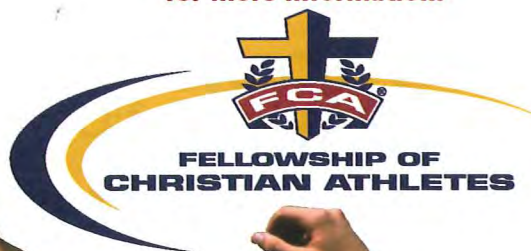
March 15-17 — NCAA Championships, at Auburn Hills, Mich.

*Home matches at NU Coliseum unless otherwise noted ■

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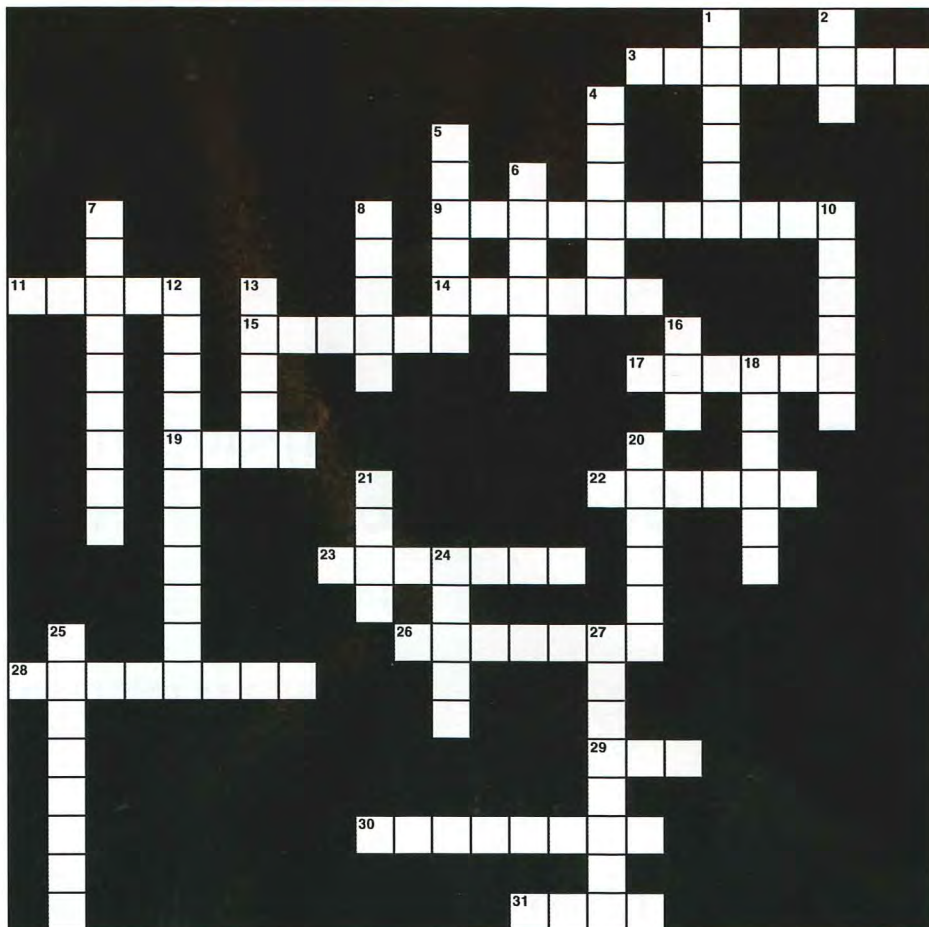
ACROSS

- 3 Wears No. 26
- 9 Tight end from California
- 11 Wears No. 25
- 14 1994 punter who was baseball All-American
- 15 Ex-Husker whose brother plays for Missouri
- 17 Offensive lineman from Texas
- 19 Leading receiver vs. Texas
- 22 Carolina safety from NU
- 23 Bret Byford's home state
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- 29 Network for NU-Colorado game
- 30 Corey McKeon's home state
- 31 Backup quarterback

DOWN

- 1 Missouri head coach
- 2 2007 nonconference opponent
- 4 Opponent in 2007 opener
- 5 Wears No. 98
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- 8 Threw first career TD pass vs. Texas
- 10 Wears No. 24
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- 13 Seattle kicker from NU
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- 18 Missouri nickname
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- 21 Quarterback who also lettered in baseball in 1983
- 24 Missouri color
- 25 Missouri campus location
- 27 Leading tackler vs. Texas

Answers in Nov. 11 issue



HUSKERNUTZ



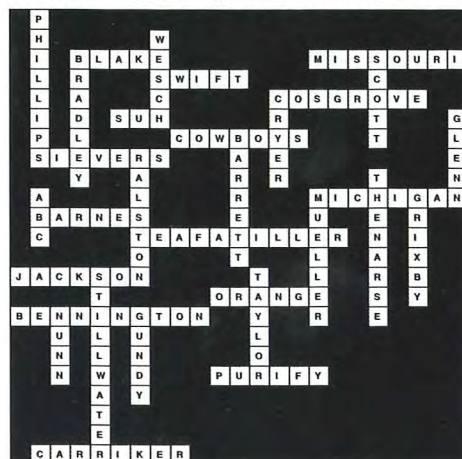
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Out Of Nowhere

Nebraska players insist they had a good week of preparation and practice



Mike BABCOCK

NEBRASKA'S GOALS remained intact, or at least one of its goals did. The Cornhuskers are still in position to win the Big 12's North Division and play in the conference championship game, something they haven't done since 1999 — when Bill Callahan was the Oakland Raiders' offensive coordinator.

Nebraska was aided in its pursuit by Missouri's 26-10 loss against Oklahoma at Columbia. But the Cornhuskers failed to capitalize on what could have been a bit of good fortune.

With a victory against Oklahoma State, they could have clinched (and that's the key word here) a divisional title by defeating Missouri, which showed characteristic self-destructiveness against the Sooners. In short, Oklahoma turned every Tiger mistake into points.

Before Missouri coach Gary Pinkel could take too much of a beating on Internet message boards, however, Nebraska did some self-destructing of its own, in large part because of shoddy special-teams play. "Shoddy" is a paraphrase of Callahan's phrase, "a complete collapse and meltdown."

"Shoddy" might seem complimentary by comparison, in fact.

To make matters worse, Nebraska wasn't blind-sided. The Cornhuskers did extra work on special teams leading up to the game. "Absolutely," said senior co-captain Brandon Rigoni. "It's going to be rough tomorrow because I feel like we let him (Callahan) down. He worked so hard to get us prepared, man. I really felt we'd come out ready to go against these guys. This is really disappointing."

Most Nebraska fans felt the same way based on a down-to-the-wire loss against defending national champion and No. 5-ranked Texas. No one was happy about the loss, but folks didn't leave Memorial Stadium scratching their heads, trying to understand how it could have happened.

The same couldn't be said of the Oklahoma State loss, which came out of nowhere. Sure, the Cowboys had a potent offense. But so did Nebraska. The game would be decided by defense and special teams, with the Cornhuskers seeming to have an edge in the former and the aforementioned extra work during practice in the latter. As it turned out, however, they had an edge in neither.

Until the Oklahoma State game, the program was progressing. Nebraska was winning games it was supposed to win and being competitive against stronger opponents, specifically Texas and USC. Oklahoma State wasn't stronger, or at least, with all due respect, it shouldn't have

been. The Cowboys had lost to Houston and Kansas State. (You remember the Wildcats and how Nebraska dispatched them.)

As we were reminded in Stillwater, Nebraska still lacks championship consistency. The Cornhuskers don't seem to lack determination, however. "We've just got to get ready to work harder; that's all I can tell you," junior cornerback Andre Jones said. "I trust Coach Coz (Kevin Cosgrove) and our defensive staff. We're going to get this thing straight. We're going to get it right."

"We're going to continue to keep playing and get ready for Mizzou."

Despite Saturday's losses, the winner of the Nebraska-Missouri game in all likelihood still will be playing at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City on Dec. 2. The winner would hold the tie-breaker in the event that both teams were to finish with 5-3 conference records.

"I'm happy everything is still intact," said Rigoni. "But the bottom line is we've just got to come out and play with heart. That's what I look for us to do next week and the week after that. Even if we were out of it, I'd like to believe our team would still come out and prepare as hard as possible."

"We're developing a character within our team. It doesn't change. It's always got to be there."

Nebraska might have invested so much emotional energy in the Texas game that it suffered a letdown. But the Oklahoma State loss couldn't

be explained by a Texas hangover, quarterback and co-captain Zac Taylor said. "Not at all; I thought we had a great week of preparation and practice."

"Honestly, I thought we did a great job of focusing (on Oklahoma State)."

In typical fashion, the senior from Norman, Okla., shouldered more than his share of responsibility for what happened in Stillwater. "I was just out of rhythm," he said. "It was really embarrassing."

Taylor seemed about as down as he has ever been during his time at Nebraska.

"I was just frustrated with myself," he said.

A victory against Oklahoma State "would have been huge," he said.

It would have been huge in the sense that Nebraska could have avoided the label of backing into the Big 12 title game, being the best in a weak division, advancing as much by default as by achievement. The Cornhuskers can still avoid that tag by finishing strong.

In other words, "if we win the next three games like I think we can," Taylor said. ■



Brandon Rigoni said the Huskers did extra work on special teams.

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October 22, 2006	Warrior Challenge Adventure Race	Ashland, NE
January 11, 2007	Panama Trail Run	Panama, NE
February 14, 2007	Panama Adventure Race	Panama, NE
March 14, 2007	Panama Mountain Bike Enduro Race	Panama, NE
April 1, 2007	The Link - Urban Adventure Race*	Lincoln, NE
April 21, 2007	F.O.P 29 Adventure Race**	Wagon Train Lake, NE
May 26-27, 2007	12-Hour Mountain Bike Relay	Branched Oak Lake, NE
June 14, 2007	Run, Row, Rock and Roll Adventure Race	Fairbury, NE
July 21, 2007	Cornhusker State Games Adventure Race	Branched Oak Lake, NE
August, 2007	Norfolk Adventure Race***	Norfolk, NE
September, 2007	Killer Kayak Challenge	Omaha, NE
October 21, 2007	Warrior Challenge Adventure Race	Ashland, NE

*To benefit YMCA Strong Kids Campaign **To benefit Child Advocacy Center ***To benefit American Heart Association



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